

Western Maine High Peaks Conservation Project FY 12 Forest Legacy Application

The Trust for Public Land – Applicant with assistance from the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust & Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust

Introduction: The Maine Office of the Trust for Public Land is pleased to collaborate with the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust and the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust to present an application for Forest Legacy funding in federal fiscal year 2012 for an assemblage of 5 landowners who are interested in selling property (some parcels in fee and others an easement interest) to the Bureau of Parks and Lands. This collection of parcels is in the heart of the “High Peaks” region of Western Maine near the towns of Rangeley, Kingfield, Carrabassett Valley, and Madrid. This area is renowned for its vast forest, abundant recreation opportunities, spectacular scenery, and ecological integrity. It is also the largest high elevation forest in Maine. Protection of these parcels will knit together existing conservation lands into a network of protected lands that achieves landscape scale protection. This effort will also enable Maine to create a protected area that will allow wildlife and humans to better withstand climate change due to the high elevation of the parcels, mix of habitats and species, and connectivity across the landscape and watersheds that allows for movement corridors for numerous species.

This application will present an overview of the region followed by detailed parcel information about two of the tracts – Crocker Mountain parcel and Orbeton Stream parcel – that are most ready for acquisition. The three other ownerships are referred to on project maps and will be described in general terms as these parcels are not as ready for acquisition. We anticipate that funding in FY 12 will be followed by subsequent requests in FY 13 and 14 and that this project will be accomplished in phases. Presenting the application in this way allows some flexibility for the project sponsor and for the State and its partners to move funding toward the landowners who are most ready to participate when funding must be requested or becomes available.

Project Sponsors: The lead applicant is the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national land conservation organization headquartered in San Francisco, California and with a Maine State Office in Portland. TPL uses our considerable expertise in real estate, finance, law and public policy to help communities and public agencies achieve their conservation objectives in line with our “Land for People” mission. TPL has deep experience working with the Forest Legacy Program in Maine having completed recent projects in Stowe Mountain, Grafton Notch, Katahdin Ironworks, and Seboeis Lake. TPL is also drawing on our offices in Vermont and Washington, DC to assist with this project.

Working in partnership with TPL is the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (RLHT) and the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust (MATLT). These two organizations have considerable local knowledge and also have completed an extensive ecological inventory and conservation plan for the High Peaks region. They also submitted a Forest Legacy application for this project in FY 11, which is the foundation upon which this application is presented.

The Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust is one of Maine’s most successful regional land trusts having conserved over 12,500 acres including 45 miles of lake and river shoreline. They manage their lands

to enhance wildlife and fisheries habitat and provide public access on a 35-mile network of multi-use trails. Their lands are actively managed and timber harvest operations provide revenue to RLHT and support local jobs. RLHT holds fee title to a 1,257 acre parcel which was the first Forest Legacy project in Maine and the first FLP project nationwide conserved using a conservation easement that is held by the Dept. of the Interior with oversight by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.

The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust was founded with the mission of “preserving and protecting the land surrounding the Appalachian Trail in Maine for public benefit.” MATLT owns interest in lands on Mt. Abraham and on Saddleback Mountain in the High Peaks region.

Strategic Conservation: The High Peaks of Western Maine has been recognized in numerous local, state, regional and national planning efforts as being of great conservation significance and also at great risk to conversion to non-forest uses. Most recently, the *Keeping Maine’s Forests Initiative* has identified the Western Maine Mountains and Lakes Region as being one of four regions suitable for pilot projects that conserve lands and invest in local forest-based economies. This area is similarly recognized in numerous ecological and community planning efforts including the Maine Wildlife Action Plan, Beginning with Habitat Program, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, NOAA’s Atlantic Salmon Restoration Plan, Maine’s Land Use Regulatory Commission’s (LURC) Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the Comprehensive Plan for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and the aforementioned High Peaks Conservation Plan developed by MATLT. Resource specialists within state agencies have also helped to identify natural resources, timber resources, recreational opportunities, and ecological characteristics in this region that are exemplary and worthy of protection. According to the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP), “the combination of intact high elevation forest and adjacency to the Appalachian Trail indicates that these tracts are excellent complements to the Bigelow-to-Abraham network of protected lands.”¹

The region is already home to a network of conservation lands, but these are not connected in any meaningful way. Conservation of key properties would allow connections between the Appalachian Trail corridor, Bigelow Preserve, Mount Abraham Ecological Reserve, Redington Public Lot, the Pingree easement, RLHT conservation lands, the Navy’s Redington SERE Base (a training facility where they teach “Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape” to military personnel) and lands owned and managed by the Penobscot Indian Nation. Conservation of the target properties would link these disparate properties to allow for migration corridors for wildlife, scenic protection for the Appalachian Trail, and preserve the sense of remoteness and wild character currently enjoyed by hikers, hunters, fishermen and snowmobilers.

Timber Resources: All of the land within the High Peaks project areas is currently owned by commercial timberland investors (a mix of TIMO, REIT and small corporate ownerships) and are actively managed for the production of forest products. The goal of the High Peaks Conservation Project is to keep this historical forest use in place and to continue to provide a source of raw materials that feed paper mills, saw mills, biomass energy plants, and local citizens with fuel wood. This use is threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and economic pressures to develop property for kingdom lots and second homes or for ski areas or wind farms.

¹ Andy Cutko, Maine Natural Areas Program – personal communication

Currently stocking levels and forest type vary by parcel and by stand – all of the parcels have been harvested within the last 20 years, but many stands have mature commercially harvestable timber. In general, the lowlands are hardwoods and mixed wood stands and the higher elevations are softwoods. This area has numerous stands that are above 2,700 feet, but are relatively accessible and have been harvested on a commercial basis to reach the valuable softwoods found there. Some other high elevation stands are quite steep and non-operable on a commercial basis. In some areas on the Crocker Mountain parcel, the landowner has planted softwoods followed by herbicide treatments and pre-commercial thinning to favor softwood regeneration². The early signs are that these plantation stands are growing well and will yield a commercial softwood crop over the next 20 years. The Maine Natural Areas Program has identified at least one stand of Beech-Birch-Maple Forest that spans the A.T. corridor and the private lands at Crocker Mountain which is rated as an “exemplary natural community” and which may be old growth³.

Keeping this area as a forest has important economic consequences for the region. These lands feed paper mills in Rumford and Somerset, a wood pellet plant in Athens, and the biomass energy plant in Stratton. Likewise, there are a number of saw mills and log consolidation yards in the region that rely on a steady stream of logs coming from the Western Mountains. Likewise, there are numerous firms – mostly small, family owned businesses – that are the loggers, truckers, heavy equipment operators, surveyors, and foresters that service this commercial forest. In 2007 21% of jobs in Franklin County were direct jobs in forestry, logging, wood products, paper and furniture manufacturing. Collectively this represents thousands of jobs in Western Maine that will be sustained by maintaining this area as a commercial working forest.

Scenic Protection: A 50-mile section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail spans this area and according to the National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club represents one of the most remote, wild and scenic sections of the entire 2,175 miles Trail. The Appalachian Trail Guide to Maine says, “The 32 miles from Maine Highway 27 to Highway 4 are the most difficult along the A.T. in Maine.....This is classic mountain hiking featuring high peaks, deep valleys, open vistas, mountain ponds, and rock-strewn streams.”⁴

It is worth noting that the official name for the “A.T.” is the Appalachian National *Scenic* Trail (emphasis added). Currently a corridor of National Park Service land that averages only 1,000 feet in width protects the A.T. This narrow corridor does not adequately protect the scenic values of this congressionally protected trail, which encompasses sweeping views of the mountains, valleys and vast forests of the High Peaks. Of note is the fact that long sections of the A.T. in the High Peaks are above treeline and offer commanding views. The A.T. on Saddleback Mountain, Sugarloaf (via side trail), Mt. Abraham (via side-trail) and the Bigelow Range are the only above treeline hiking experiences in Maine found outside of the Mahoosuc Range, Acadia National Park and Baxter Park. Conserving the lands surrounding the A.T. corridor, particularly the dramatic ridges and valleys on the subject properties is essential to maintaining the viewshed and the remote character that hikers currently enjoy. This is particularly true for the many organized groups (summer camps, church groups, scout troops) that traverse this section of the Appalachian Trail every summer, which is often their first introduction to Maine’s mountains.

² Tom Charles, Forester, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands – personal communication

³ Andy Cutko, MNAP - personal communication

⁴ Appalachian Trail Guide to Maine (2004) p. 95

Portions of the major travel routes through the High Peaks region are currently designated as Scenic Byways. Routes 4 and 17 from Madrid to Byron are designated as a National Scenic Byway by the Federal Highway Administration and Routes 4 and 16 through the Carrabassett Valley are designated State Scenic Byways by the Maine Department of Transportation in recognition of the dramatic mountain scenery on the subject properties⁵. These include the Rangeley Lakes Scenic Byway, which the state promotes with the following language: “Wind through the mountains and lakes of western Maine on the Rangeley Lakes Scenic Byway. Step back in time and treat yourself to spectacular scenery, outstanding recreational opportunities, abundant wildlife, local museums, and quaint New England villages.”⁶ The High Peaks Forest Legacy project aims to protect this scenery, recreation opportunities and character for Maine residents and visitors who traverse the byways. This is a concrete example of how land conservation will support the tourism economy of Western Maine.

Recreation: In addition to the Appalachian Trail, the High Peaks region hosts numerous other recreation opportunities including hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and ATV riding.

Fishing: The fishing opportunities in the Orbeton Stream and the Sandy River are renowned for brook trout and salmon. Maintaining the water quality in these streams is essential to preserving the recreational fisheries values. According to Inland Fisheries and Wildlife the streams in the high peaks are destination areas for recreational cold-water fisheries. The project will ensure this protection by preventing development along the streams and by ensuring exemplary timber practices through the easement terms.

Hunting: The High Peaks properties are also popular for hunting. The area benefits from an extensive network of logging roads that provide access to the remote interior and from having a variety of age classes and stand types including many stands with a heavy conifer component that support deer wintering areas. Additionally there are numerous stands of early successional habitat that support game birds. Conservation of these lands through BPL fee acquisition or Forest Legacy easements will guarantee public access for hunting and maintain suitable habitat for game species.

Snowmobile and ATV Trails: The Interconnecting Trail System (ITS) snowmobile trail network in the High Peaks region provides hundreds of miles of groomed trails maintained by local clubs that are enjoyed by thousands of snowmobilers from throughout New England and Canada. On one bridge across the Rangeley River in Oquossoc over 1,000 snowmobiles may cross on a busy Saturday.

Local ATV clubs and the state have developed a network of authorized ATV throughout the region. These ATV clubs are becoming increasingly more organized and are working cooperatively with landowners to establish permitted trails.

New Non-Motorized Trails: The project area contains high potential for new non-motorized trail networks. Maine Huts and Trails (a.k.a. Western Mountains Foundation) has proposed an extension of their existing hut and trail system into this area. Negotiations with Maine Huts and Trails are just

⁵ http://www.maine.gov/mdot/projects-grant-applications/scenic_byways.php

⁶ <http://www.byways.org/explore/byways/13830>

beginning, but purchases of fee lands or easements would allow Maine BPL to assist and direct further expansion of this trail system into appropriate locations.

Additionally, BPL has identified the Crocker Mountain – Mount Abraham – Sugarloaf area as having great potential for a new hiking trail system with loop opportunities. “The section of the AT between Rt. 27 and Rt. 4 provides direct or indirect access to six 4,000’+ peaks and numerous unique geological, ecological, and visual resources.....The (Forest Legacy) acquisition appears to provide the opportunity to develop one or more backpacking loop options – something that is lacking in many cases in Maine. While the Bigelow Preserve provides this same backpacking loop opportunity in the region, the demand there may seasonally outstrip the supply.”⁷ Acquisition of strategic parcels by the state in fee or easement would enable BPL to work with the Appalachian Trail community and other stakeholders to develop new hiking trails in this area.

It is assumed that any new trail development would be accommodated in the easement terms or on fee lands. BPL’s normal stewardship planning and environmental review practices would apply.

Ecological Values: The High Peaks region is recognized in the Maine State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and in the Beginning with Habitat (BwH) program as being within a conservation focus area. These plans have identified “Landscape scale areas that contain exceptionally rich concentrations of at-risk species and natural communities and high quality common natural communities, significant wildlife habitats, and their intersection with large blocks of undeveloped habitat.”⁸ Additionally, the Maine Natural Areas Program has identified portions of this landscape as “an area of very high ecological importance”⁹ This high rank from MNAP has to do with several factors including the large proportion of high elevation subalpine forests and “the unique, calcium-rich bedrock on Crocker Mt. creates conditions for rare plants and natural communities that occur very few places in Maine (and NOT on Bigelow or Mt. Abraham)” (parentheses in original).¹⁰

Bicknell’s Thrush: The high elevation forests of the High Peaks contain a significant block of habitat for Bicknell’s Thrush. This bird is considered one of the most at risk species in Maine and is facing significant declines in its population. Research by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science has shown that the Bicknell’s Thrush habitat is concentrated in upper elevation spruce fir forests, typically above 3,000 feet¹¹. The two largest habitat blocks of this type in Maine are the High Peaks area and Mount Katahdin. The SWAP identifies Bicknell’s Thrush as being in the highest priority category for conservation action across the board including a “Highest Priority” or “#1” ranking for all of the relevant categories including “Knowledge and Readiness”, “Species of Greatest Conservation Need,” and “(Need for) Conservation Funding.”¹²

High Elevation Forests: The High Peaks contains the largest area above 2,700 feet in Maine. The significance of this is found in the large number of rare species and exemplary natural communities that are associated with these high elevation forests. Of particular concern is that these fragile forest

⁷ Rex Turner, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Maine BPL – personal communication

⁸ “Beginning with Habitat Maine Conservation Priorities Working Draft” 9/3/08

⁹ Andy Cutko, Maine Natural Areas Program – Personal Communication

¹⁰ Andy Cutko, Maine Natural Areas Program – Personal Communication

¹¹ Lamber et al. “Bicknell’s Thrush Distribution Model” The Wilson Bulletin, March 2005 pp1-11

¹² Maine Wildlife Action Plan - Table 18 p. 3-112

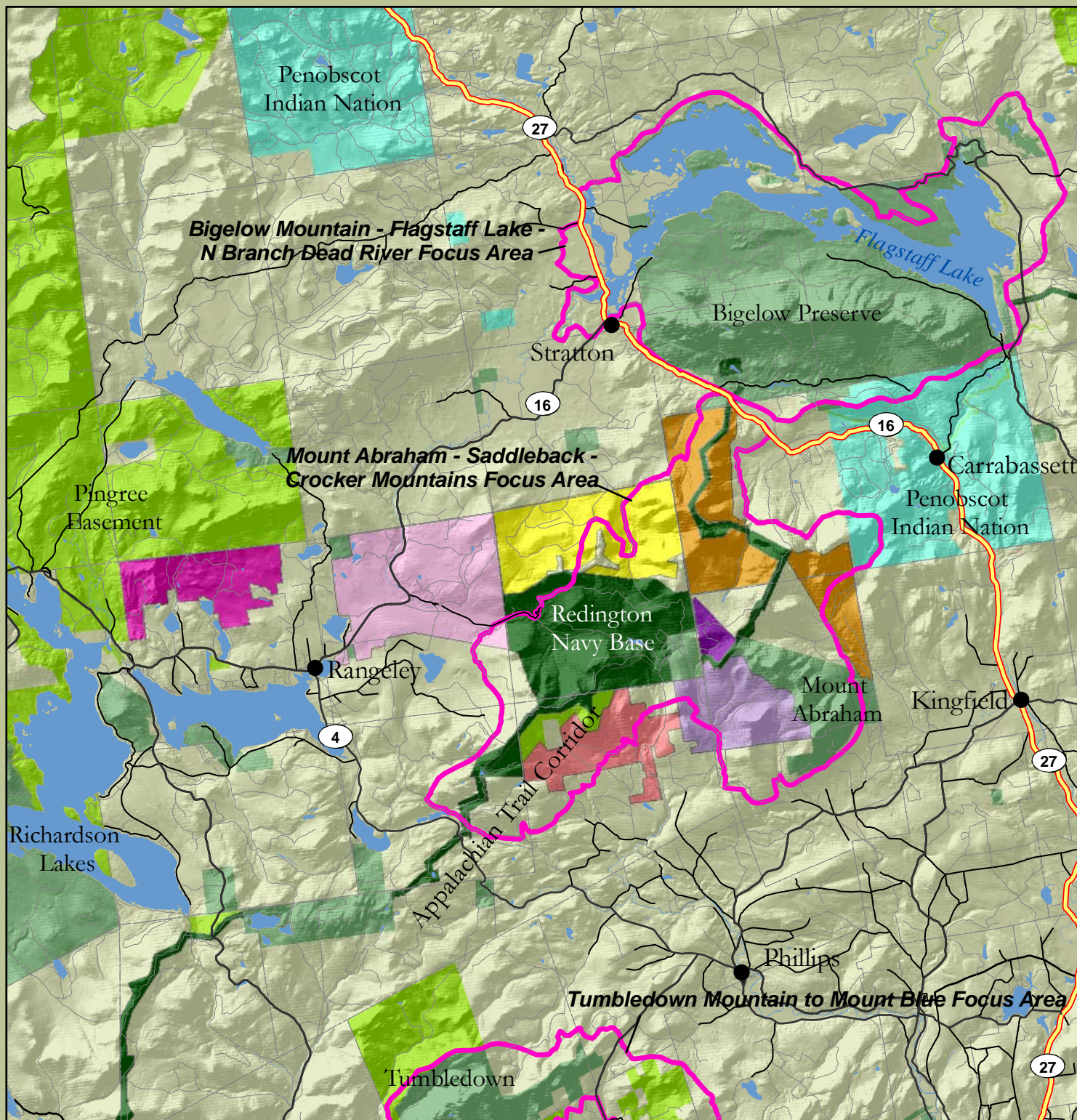
types can be degraded by alpine ski development, wind energy development or inappropriate forestry. In the case of the Crocker Mountain parcel, which is targeted for fee acquisition by BPL, there is an extensive area above 2,700 feet that contains operable slopes and even some plantation forestry at this elevation. Plum Creek has received permits for cutting above this elevation. Given the sensitivity of this site, TPL believes that the Bureau of Parks and Lands will do a better job balancing the various ecological factors related to rare natural communities and Bicknell's Thrush habitat with goals for commercial forest management than if the property were to stay in private ownership.

The Parcels: This application is inclusive of five landowners who have expressed interest in selling lands in fee or in easement.













Parcel	Phase	Landowner	Acreage/Interest/Age ncy	Estimated Value
Crocker Mountain	FY 12	Plum Creek	11,798 acres in fee to BPL	\$8,600,000
Orbeton Stream	FY 12	Linkletter	5,945 acres in easement to BPL	\$1,783,500
Redington Parcel	FY 13	Dallas Corporation	10,802 acres in fee	\$8,641,600
Greely Ponds	FY 13	Dallas Corporation	14,046 acres in fee	\$11,236,800
Ephraim Ridge	FY 13	GMO	6,640 acres in easement	\$1,992,000
Lone Mountain	FY 14	Bayroot	1,030 acres in fee	\$824,000
Farmer Mountain	FY 14	Bayroot	6,343 acres in fee	\$5,074,400

The project sponsors are working to advance real estate negotiations with each of these landowners and they are in various states of readiness. At this time, we are presenting two parcels as being ready for FY 12. In each case there are potential hurdles and barriers to overcome and the status of negotiations remains somewhat fluid. The applicants intend to work closely with the Forest Legacy Committee on the status of negotiations and due diligence as the projects evolve to allow for the most accurate rankings and to anticipate any needed shifts in deal structure or landowner readiness.

Summary: The five landowners that make up the High Peaks Forest Legacy application represent an opportunity to do landscape scale conservation in Maine's largest mountain area. Funding for this project will forever protect an important working forest, sensitive high elevation lands, the Appalachian Trail viewshed, and critical habitat for wildlife and for native brook trout and salmon. Given the scope of the opportunity, the application should be viewed as a phased opportunity with the funding moving to the landowners that are most ready in FY 12, with additional opportunities in subsequent years. The project sponsors are a partnership of a national land trust (Trust for Public Land) and two local organizations (Maine A.T. Land Trust and Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust). This partnership is capable of negotiating and executing large-scale transactions, lobbying for funding in Washington, and building local support for a conservation outcome.



Potential Conservation Opportunities

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Crocker Mountain - 11,798 acres |  State Wildlife Action Plan Focus Areas |
|  Lone Mountain Connector- 1,030 acres |  Federal Land |
|  Farmer Mountain- 6,343 acres |  State Land |
|  Greely Ponds- 14,046 acres |  Private Conservation Land |
|  Ephraim Ridge- 6,640 acres |  Penobscot Indian Nation |
|  Redington Mountain- 10,802 acres | |
|  Orbeton Stream- 5,945 acres | |

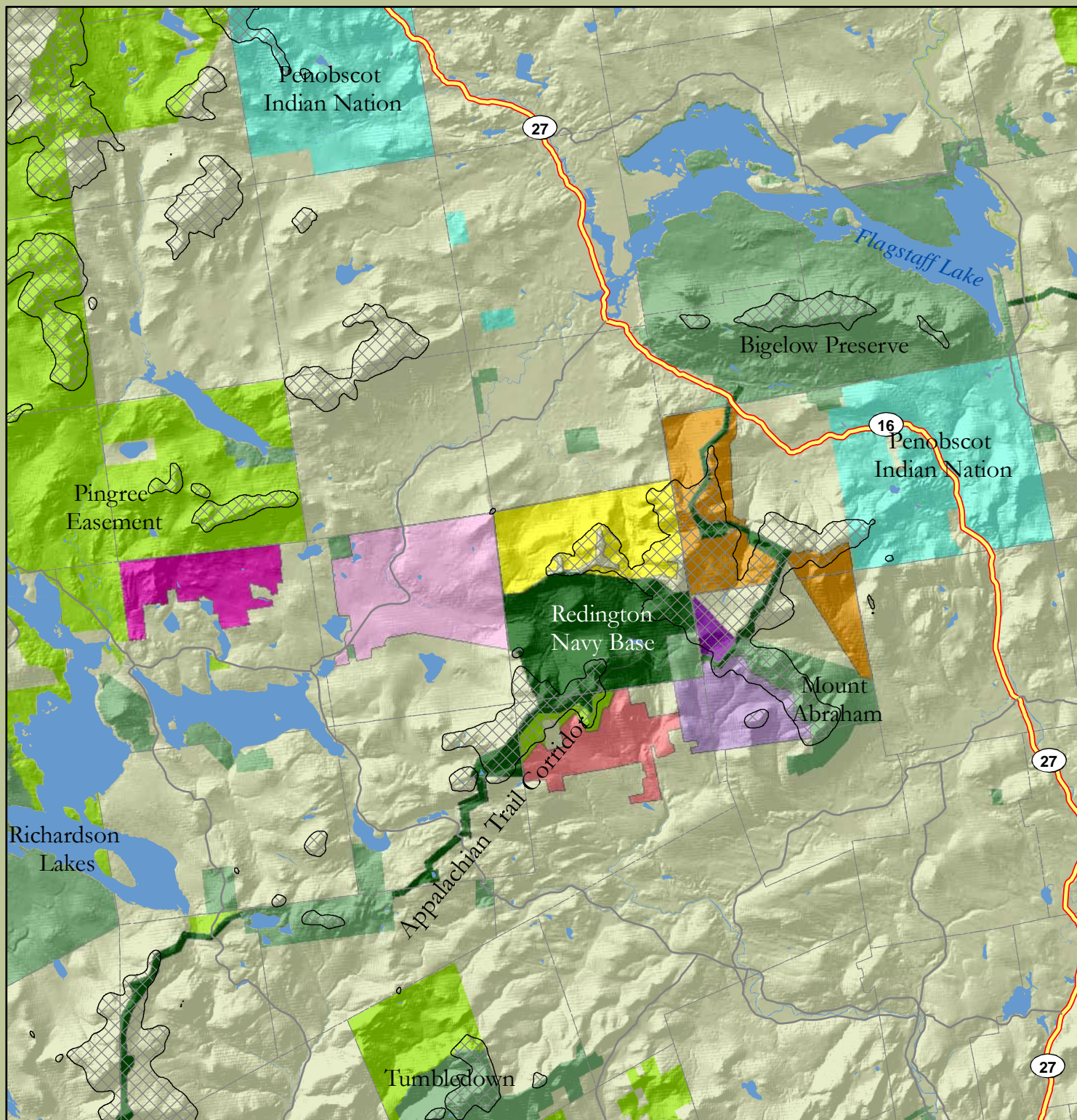
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



High Peaks Forest Legacy Project Franklin County, Maine

Property boundaries courtesy of Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. Boundaries are approximate. Map created by The Trust for Public Land on 5/20/2010. Focus Areas from Maine's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy courtesy of Maine Natural Areas Program. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.





Potential Conservation Opportunities

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Crocker Mountain - 11,798 acres | High Elevation: above 2700 Ft |
| Lone Mountain Connector- 1,030 acres | Federal Land |
| Farmer Mountain- 6,343 acres | State Land |
| Dead River- 14,046 acres | Private Conservation Land |
| Ephraim Ridge- 6,640 acres | Penobscot Indian Nation |
| Redington Mountain- 10,802 acres | |
| Orbeton Stream- 5,945 acres | |

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

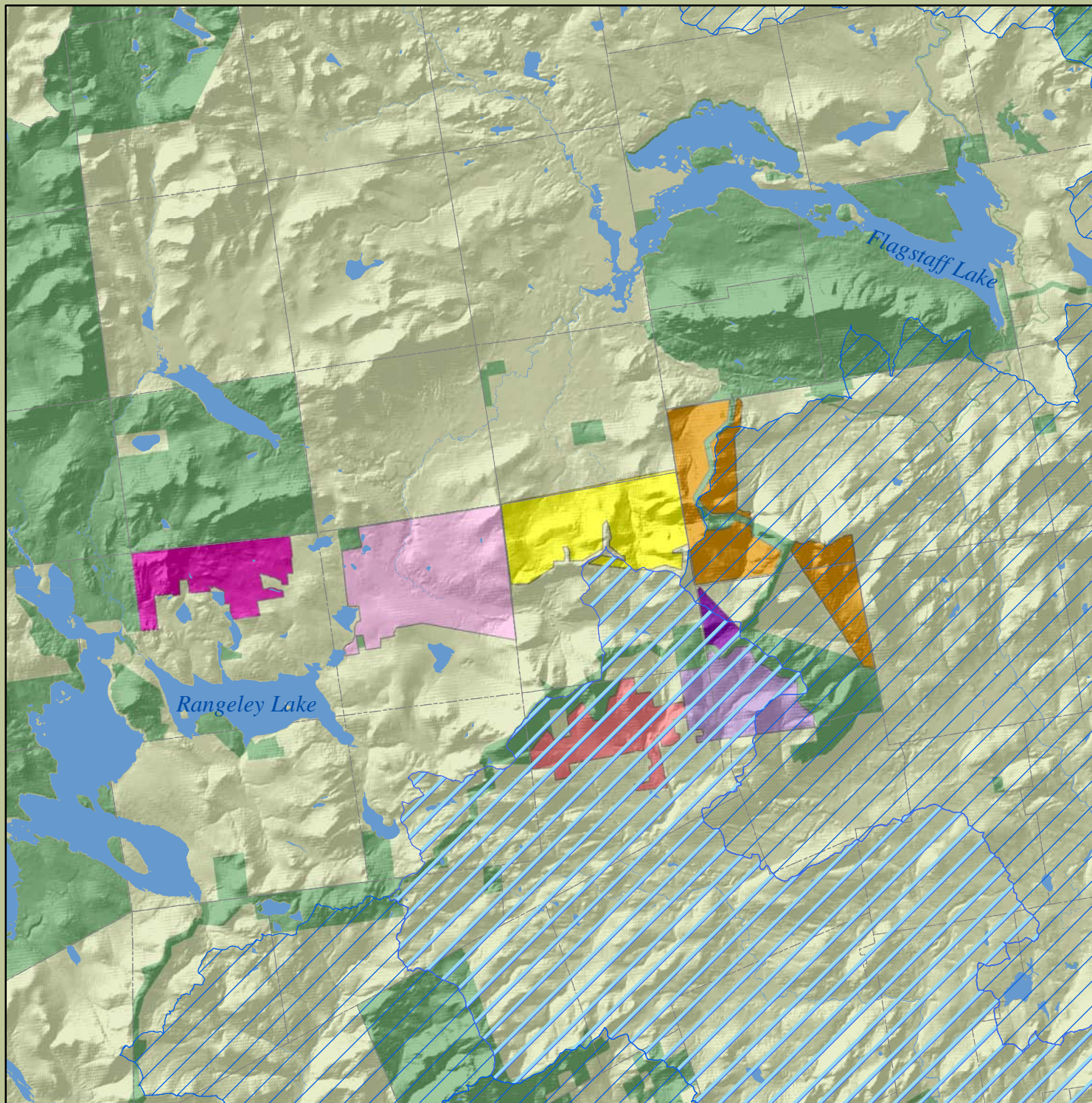


High Peaks Forest Legacy Project High Elevation Areas








Property boundaries courtesy of Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. Boundaries are approximate. Map created by The Trust for Public Land on 5/20/2010.


Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.







High Peaks Conservation Opportunities


-  Crocker Mountain
-  Lone Mountain Connector
-  Farmer Mountain
-  Dead River
-  Ephraim Ridge
-  Redington Mountain
-  Orbeton Stream

-  Public & Private Conservation Land

Atlantic Salmon

-  Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment
-  Critical Habitat

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

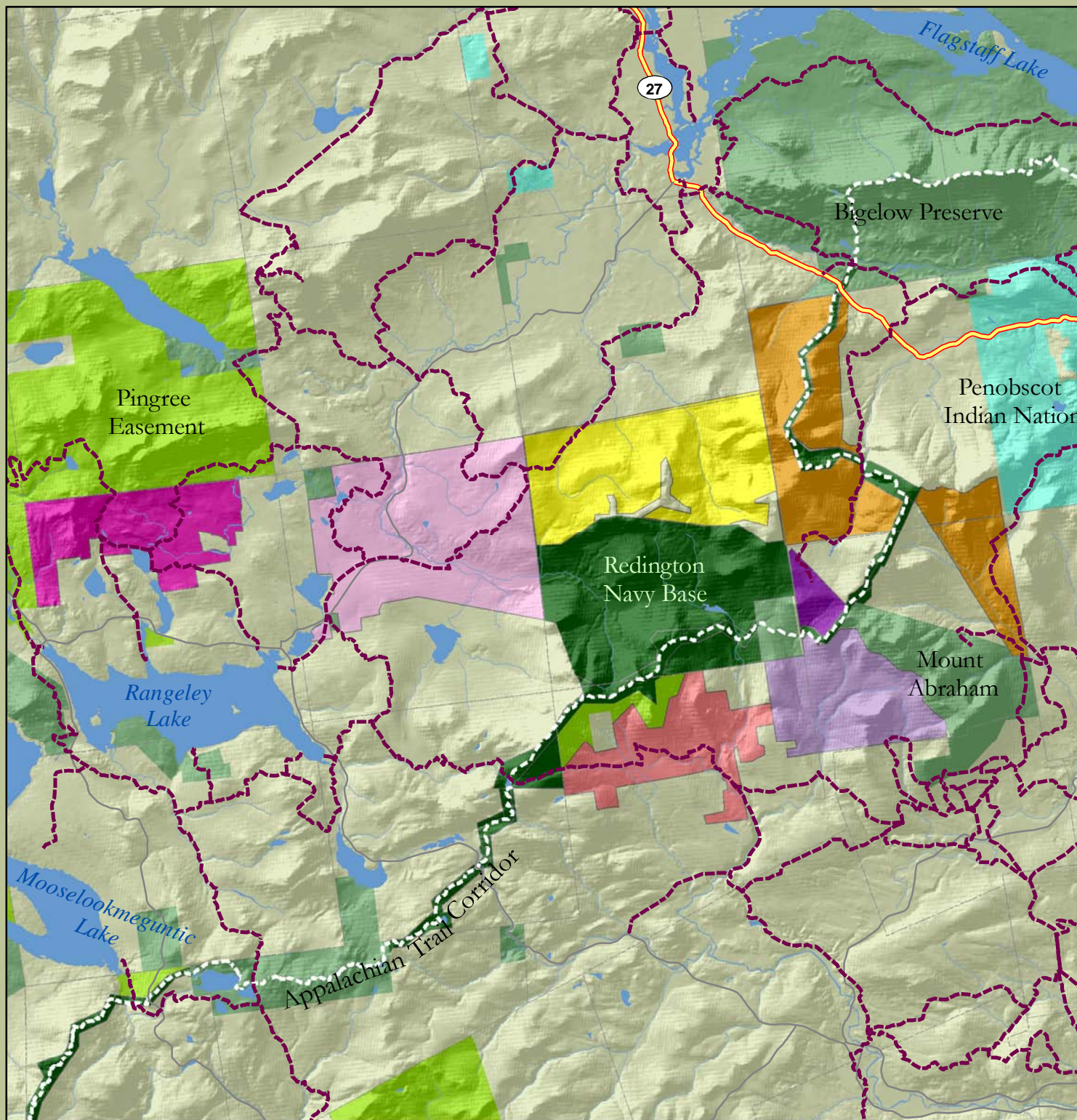


High Peaks Forest Legacy Project Atlantic Salmon Habitat



Property boundaries courtesy of Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. Atlantic salmon data courtesy of NOAA. Boundaries are approximate. Map created by The Trust for Public Land on 5/20/2010. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.





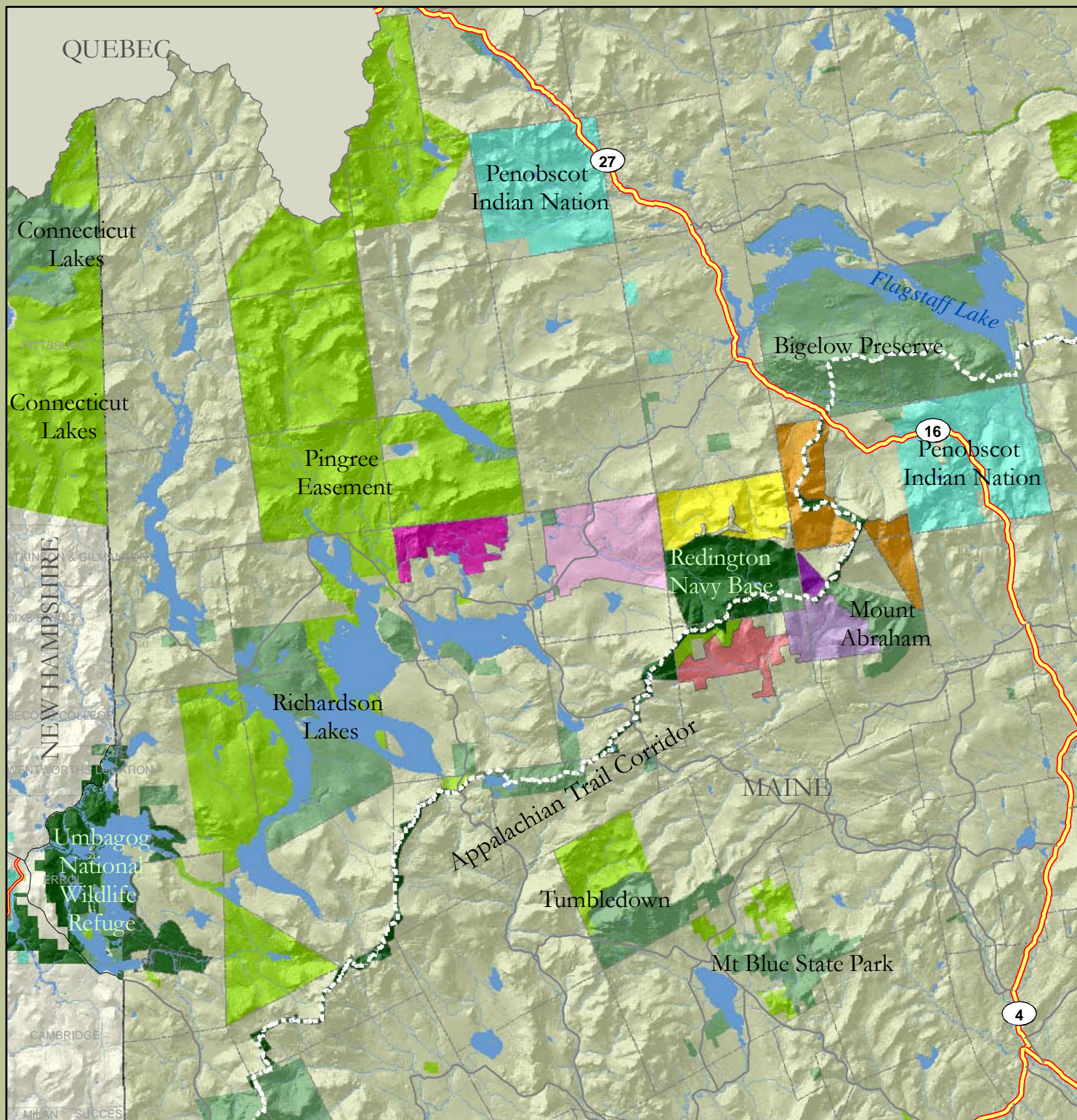
Potential Conservation Opportunities

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Crocker Mountain | Snowmobile Trails |
| Lone Mountain Connector | Appalachian Trail |
| Farmer Mountain | Federal Land |
| Dead River | State Land |
| Ephraim Ridge | Private Conservation Land |
| Redington Mountain | Penobscot Indian Nation |
| Orbeton Stream | |
- 0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles













High Peaks Forest Legacy Project Snowmobile Trails Franklin County, Maine

Property boundaries courtesy of Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. Boundaries are approximate. Snowmobile trails courtesy of Maine Department of Conservation. Map created by The Trust for Public Land on 5/20/2010. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.





Potential Conservation Opportunities

 Crocker Mountain - 11,798 acres	 Appalachian Trail
 Lone Mountain Connector- 1,030 acres	 Federal Land
 Farmer Mountain- 6,343 acres	 State Land
 Dead River- 14,046 acres	 Private Conservation Land
 Ephraim Ridge- 6,640 acres	 Penobscot Indian Nation
 Redington Mountain- 10,802 acres	
 Orbeton Stream- 5,945 acres	

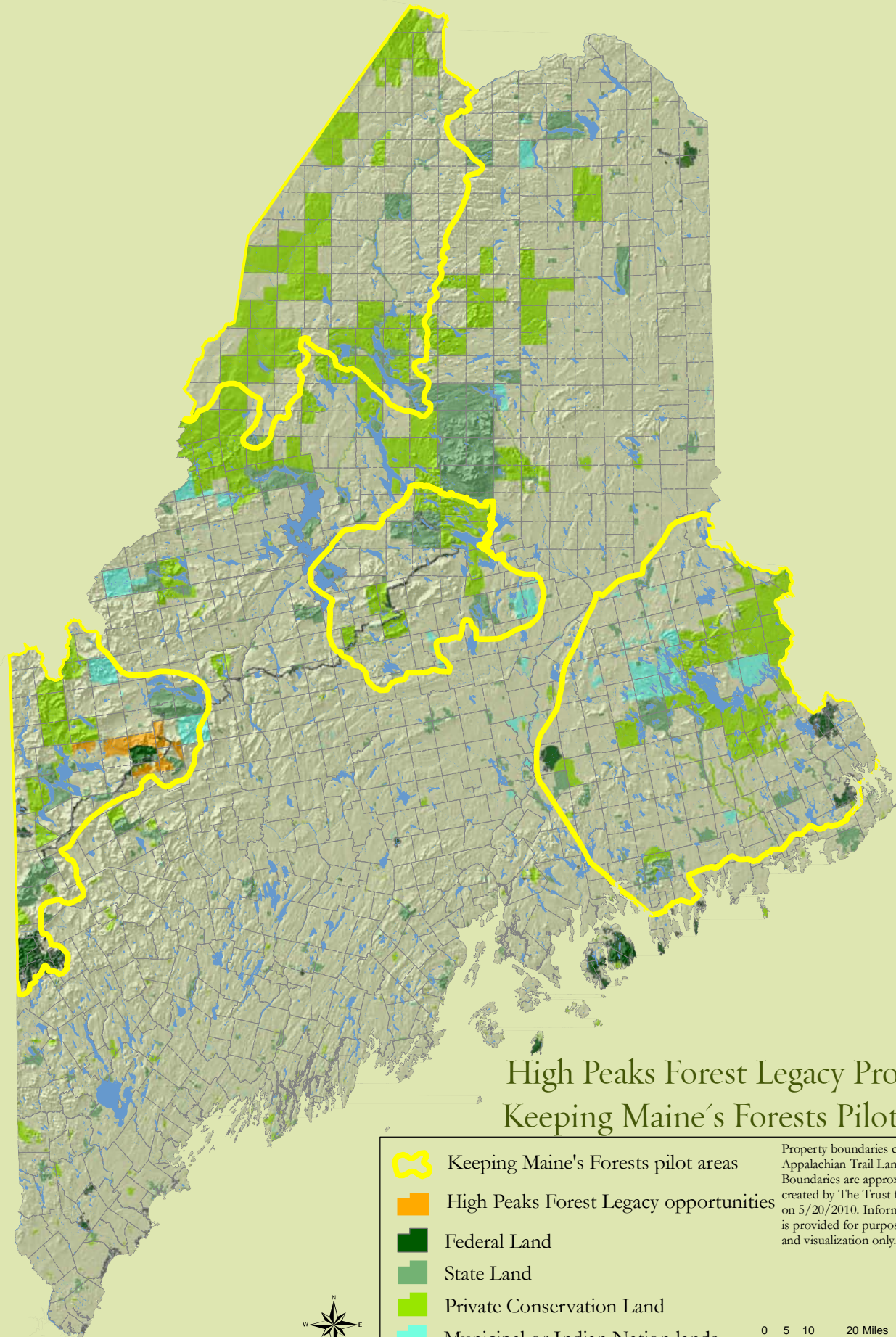
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High Peaks Forest Legacy Project Locus Franklin County, Maine









Property boundaries courtesy of Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. Boundaries are approximate. Map created by The Trust for Public Land on 5/20/2010. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.





High Peaks Forest Legacy Project & Keeping Maine's Forests Pilot Areas

-  Keeping Maine's Forests pilot areas
-  High Peaks Forest Legacy opportunities
-  Federal Land
-  State Land
-  Private Conservation Land
-  Municipal or Indian Nation lands

Property boundaries courtesy of Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. Boundaries are approximate. Map created by The Trust for Public Land on 5/20/2010. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.



***A. Maine Forest Legacy Program
Summary Information Form***

Date: May 28, 2010

Project Title: Crocker Mountain

Project Location (township and county): Carrabassett Valley and Mount Abram Township, Franklin County.

Name, Address, Telephone Number and Contact Person of Landowner: Luke Muzzy, Plum Creek Timber Company, 1 Plum Creek Road, Greenville, ME, 04442, 207-695-9002, Luke.Muzzy@plumcreek.com

Name, Address and Telephone Number and Contact Person of Partner Organization (if applicable):

- Trust for Public Land, Wolfe Tone, Maine State Director, 377 Fore Street, Portland, ME 04101, 207-772-7424, wolfe.tone@tpl.org
- Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, Nancy Perlson, Executive Director, PO Box 249, Oquossoc, ME 04964, 207-864-7311, nperlson@rlht.org
- Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, Carole Haas, Executive Director, PO Box 761, Portland, ME 04104, 207-767-6303, chaas@matlt.org

Land Protection Method (easement or fee) and Management Entity Proposed: The property will be acquired and managed in fee by the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Abstract of Project: The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands will acquire the 11,798-acre Crocker Mountain Parcel in fee from a real estate investment trust that would otherwise sell it on the open market. This property supports a well-stocked commercial forest and a large high elevation area that contains numerous rare species and exemplary natural communities. Conservation of this parcel will guarantee public access for recreation and also provide a source of income to the state from timber harvesting. The Crocker parcel is located in close proximity to the Sugarloaf ski area, and portions of the property are attractive for future development. The property also abuts the Appalachian Trail for over 7 miles and will provide a large buffer to ensure the remote and scenic qualities for hikers that are traversing North and South Crocker Mountains, both 4,000 foot peaks.

Total Project Costs: \$8,875,000

Acquisition cost: \$8,600,000

Preacquisition costs including, but not limited to, legal, survey and appraisal costs: \$275,000

Forest Legacy Funding Request: \$6,450,000

Matching Funds to be provided (\$ and source) (must equal at least 25% of the Total Project Cost): \$2,425,000. The required match for this parcel will be raised by TPL, RLHT, and MATLT through applications to the Land for Maine's Future program and a private fundraising campaign.

Annual Management Costs and Easement Stewardship Endowment Commitment: This is a fee purchase to be held by BPL with timber revenue so there is no stewardship fee required.

Applicant Signature

***Maine Forest Legacy Program
Scoring Criteria***

**Crocker Mountain Parcel – 11,798-acre fee purchase
from Plum Creek Timber to Maine BPL**

IMPORTANCE CRITERIA (30 points maximum)

1. Identify total size of project: (0 pts if < 10,000 Acres; 5 pts if >10,000 Acres).

11,798 acres in fee to the Bureau of Parks and Lands

2. Describe to what extent the project contains each public value

- a. Economic benefits from timber and potential forest productivity (including landowner commitment to sustainable forest management in accordance with a management plan and whether land is third party certified; whether forestry activities contribute to the region's resource-based economy; and whether the property contains characteristics to sustain a productive forest)***

At 11,798 acres this parcel has a significant timber resource that will benefit the Bureau of Parks and Lands and the region with a renewable and sustainable source of timber revenue. A preliminary analysis by BPL Forester, Tom Charles, has indicated the following information:

“From a timber management standpoint, much of the project area – perhaps 60% - is fine tree growing land. It will not immediately be a large source of timber revenue due to the extensive harvesting over the past 25+ years, but is all well stocked and should provide substantial harvest volumes in the not too distant future. The high elevations mean that site quality and fertility is somewhat limited, but also that maintaining softwood stocking is less difficult than on lower elevation sites.

Between 5,000 and 5,500 operable acres lie below 2,700'. Perhaps 90 percent has been harvested during the past 25 years, a small amount within the past two years. The other 10% holds mixedwood stands that should probably receive harvest treatments during the next ten years. These not-recently treated acres will pose access challenges, but no worse than some of the areas cut fairly recently. Most of the harvesting on the under-2,700' lands was moderate to heavy, with perhaps 1,000 acres or more having been clearcut. All the clearcut acres are well regenerated, usually to softwoods. White spruce plantations were established during the early 1990s on about 300 acres east of Stony Brook, starting immediately north of the power line R-O-W. These plantings are growing well, with leader growth generally 12-18", some 24"+, on trees 12-25' tall. The larger trees are 4-6" dbh, and much of these planed acres should support a commercial thinning about 2020.

At least 4,500 acres, nearly 40% of the entire area, appears to be inoperable by currently available and practical logging methods. Most of this is mountaintop or steep mountainside; some is steep-sided ravines along watercourses. Of the remaining acres, perhaps 1,800 operable acres lie above 2,700 feet in elevation. In LURC jurisdiction this would require a Forestry Operations Permit; though, regulations in Carrabassett Valley are probably different. This operable high elevation land has mostly been heavily harvested or clearcut during the period 1985-95, with the clearcut areas receiving softwood release treatments, and up to ¼ of the area was pre-commercially thinned during the mid-late 1990s. These acres hold well-stocked softwoods, heavy to fir, and the thinned acres should be ready for a commercial thinning on or before 2020. The unthinned stands will take another ten years or so beyond that time before a commercial entry is feasible.

The project as a whole undoubtedly holds some ecological communities and/or rare plant/habitat areas worthy of protection. Given the harvest history of the project lands, it is very unlikely that any of these special areas would be on the operable land base, and their protection should have little or no effect on timber management. Much of this land is in the viewshed of various overlooks on/near the AT. Given how BPL manages, Bureau harvests should be far less obvious than those that have occurred during the past few decades, while still accomplishing our silvicultural objectives.”¹³

Mr. Charles’ description is generally validated by other on-the-ground observation by TPL staff and consultants. The overall conclusion is that this parcel is about 60-70% commercial timberland that has been harvested in heavy to moderate intensity over the past 25 years with some harvestable stands remaining and numerous stands with good growing stock. Approximately 30-40% of the land is high elevation or steep slope that is likely non-operable, but this area is also an area of great ecological significance.

b. Economic benefits from non-timber products (such as non-timber forest products and guided outdoor recreation)

The Crocker Mountain property is in the primary foreground viewshed of the Appalachian Trail and maintaining it in its undeveloped state is integral to keeping this section of the A.T. in the High Peaks as a destination recreation area. This section of trail is sought out by thousands of people every year, as it is part of a spectacular 3-5 day backpacking trip. Similarly, the Crocker Mountain area is well known for its hunting opportunities for deer, moose and game birds. These recreational visitors and hunters have a noticeable impact on tourism related businesses in Stratton, Rangeley and Kingfield. The hotels, restaurants, and grocery stores in these towns get a significant proportion of the summer business from hikers and fall business from hunters. Protection of the Crocker Mountain parcel will preserve this area as a destination for out of state visitors.

¹³ Tom Charles, BPL Staff Forester – Personal Communication

c. *Public recreation opportunities*

The Crocker Mountain parcel contains two 4,000-foot peaks, North and South Crocker, (their summits are on the NPS A.T. corridor, but the entire side slopes including dramatic glacial cirques are on the subject property) and the entire area is part of the viewshed of the A.T. Maine BPL also recognizes this area as having high potential for the creation of new hiking and backpacking loop opportunities. According to Rex Turner, Outdoor Recreation Planner at BPL:

“.....this (Crocker Mountain) potential acquisition strikes me as having very high recreational value. The section of the AT between Rt. 27 and Rt. 4 provides direct or indirect access to six 4,000'+ peaks and numerous unique geological, ecological, and visual resources. Redington's summit, for instance, is just over 4,000' (one of only two 4,000 footers in New England without a trail to the summit).

The acquisition appears to provide the opportunity to develop one or more backpacking loop options - something that is lacking in many cases in Maine. While the Bigelow Preserve provides this same backpacking loop opportunity in the region, the demand there may seasonally outstrip the supply.....If resources, partners, and research/planning aligned to support the concept, it is possible that this acquisition could underpin the development of a loop trail to incorporate South Crocker Mt. (AT), Mt. Redington, the Redington BPL lot, Lone Mt. (AT), Mt. Abraham, a portion of the 2,695 acre southern parcel in Mount Abram TWP, and a portion of the parcel in Carrabassett Valley, south of Sugarloaf.”¹⁴

Additionally, the Crocker Mountain parcel contains the headwaters segment of the Rapid Stream, which is designated an important stream for fisheries conservation according to the NOAA Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan.

The entire parcel would also be open to hunting under BPL ownership and would provide a diversity of habitats, including a large softwood component that supports deer and other game species and older clearcuts that support game birds.

d. *High value plant and animal habitat as identified by state, regional, or federal programs, including but not limited to Significant Wildlife Habitat; Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas; habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species (including Essential Habitat and Critical Habitat); and rare or exemplary natural communities.*

The Crocker Mountain parcel is within a focus area for the Maine Wildlife Action Plan and the Beginning with Habitat initiative. Additionally, the property is home to numerous rare species and natural communities that are identified by the Natural Areas Program as being important for protection. These include:

¹⁴ Rex Turner, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands – Personal Communication

- Beech Birch Maple Forest (S5) – Crocker Mountain contains an “Exemplary Natural Community” of this common forest type. This population spans both the A.T. corridor and the Crocker Mountain parcel with approximately 60 acres on the subject parcel. It is considered exemplary because of the stand composition of very mature trees – possibly old growth.
- Fir-Heartleaved Birch Subalpine Forest (S3)– Exemplary Natural Community that is found in several areas on the Crocker Mountain parcel representing one of the largest blocks of this ecotype in Maine. The community is defined by balsam fir, or mixtures of fir and heart-leaved birch that form a dense canopy of somewhat stunted trees. Patches of heart-leaved birch and mountain ash are common where wind, fire, or landslides have created openings. Fir waves, an unusual landscape pattern of linear bands of fir dieback and regeneration, are another variant of this community found on Crocker Mountain. This is also an important habitat for the Bicknell’s Thrush.
- Boreal Circumneutral Open Outcrop (S2) – This community occurs on low- to mid-elevation (<2700’) outcrops of limestone, dolomite, or other rock where weathering produces circumneutral to calcareous substrates. Sites are usually below the hill summit, on side slopes or cliffs rather than ridges. The underlying geology on the Crocker Mountain parcel is different than surrounding peaks and explains the existence of this rare ecotype.
- Subalpine Hanging Bog (S1) – This community is found high on Crocker Mountain away from the operable timber areas. A dwarf shrub bog tilted on its side, this community consists of typical heath bog shrubs growing on a dense peat moss carpet over rocky slopes.
- Black Sedge (*Carex atratiformis*) (S2/3) – In Maine this sedge is typically found along calcareous seeps, cliff bases, and open riverbanks in alpine or boreal areas. This plant is at the southern extent of its range in Maine and is found in 13 towns.
- Lesser Wintergreen (*Pyrola Minor*) (S2) – In Maine, this plant is found in cool, moist woods, usually near streams or riverbanks. MNAP data indicates that this species is only found in seven towns.
- Bulrush Sedge (*Carex Scirpoidea*) (S2) – This species is found commonly in Alaska. In northern New England it found in damp subalpine sites, subalpine cliffs, and northern rivershores. MNAP data indicates it is found in two towns in Maine.
- Neglected Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis stricta ssp. Stricta*) (S2) – In Maine this species is known to occur on sparsely vegetated, rocky shorelines, as well as open ledges and outcrops in alpine settings. It is found in seven towns in Maine.

Given this richness of species and exemplary natural communities, the Natural Areas Program has indicated that they believe that this parcel is worthy of protection. Andy Cutko from MNAP summarized the parcel as follows:

“Briefly, it is an area of very high ecological importance. The combination of intact high elevation forest and adjacency to the Appalachian Trail indicates that these tracts are excellent complements to the Bigelow-to-Abraham network of protected lands. More importantly, the unique, calcium-rich bedrock on

Crocker Mt. creates conditions for rare plants and natural communities that occur very few places in Maine (and NOT on Bigelow or Mt. Abraham) (parentheses in original).¹⁵

Additionally, the Crocker Mountain Parcel is identified as containing critical habitat for the Bicknell's Thrush according to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, which is the leading authority on this rare bird that is the highest priority for conservation in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan.

NOAA's Atlantic salmon habitat model includes a portion of the property that drains into the Rapid Stream as being a critical habitat in the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment. Protection of this watershed is part of the conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Maine.

e. water supply and watershed protection, and/or containing important riparian areas, wetlands, shorelines, or river systems

The Crocker Mountain property is a high elevation property with numerous headwaters streams and seeps that flows into three major stream systems – the Stoney Brook, a tributary to the Stratton Brook; the South Branch of the Carrabassett River; and the Rapid Stream. All three of these stream systems eventually flow into the main stem of the Carrabassett River, which in turn eventually drains into the Kennebec. The Carrabassett River is used for a public drinking water supply to the Sugarloaf Water Association, which according to DEP data serves a population of 1,238 in the Town of Carrabassett Valley¹⁶. Insofar as this property contains the source waters for this watershed, protection of these upper elevation waters and establishing adequate riparian buffers is critical to the overall health of the river downstream and will aid in protecting an existing public drinking water system.

f. scenic resources (such as mountain viewsheds, undeveloped shorelines, visual access to water, areas along state highway system)

The Crocker Mountain parcel is in a foreground viewshed from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Route 27 Scenic Byway. Both of these resources rely on the dramatic mountain scenery that comprises Crocker Mountain specifically and the High Peaks generally. The close proximity to these designated scenic resources is extremely significant in light of the relatively few areas in Maine that are near roads or trails that are so designated. Protection of Crocker Mountain terrain from development of telecommunications towers, wind turbines, ski development or aggressive clearcutting will provide long-term scenic protection to some of Maine's most sensitive scenic landscapes.

g. historic/cultural/tribal resources of significance as formally documented by a government agency or non-governmental organization

(1 pt for each public value significantly represented by the project; 0 additional pts if project is of primarily regional significance; 4 additional pts if project is of state significance; 8 additional pts if project is of national significance)

¹⁵ Andy Cutko, Maine Natural Areas Program – Personal Communication

¹⁶ Maine Drinking Water Program Website "Surface Water Bodies Used to Supply Drinking Water in Maine"
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/eng/water/resources/surfacewater.htm>

The Crocker Mountain Parcel is adjacent to the following historic/cultural/tribal resources.

- The Appalachian Trail – While the A.T. is primarily a natural and recreational resource, it is also an historic resource that is being promoted for listing on the National Register of Historic Places¹⁷. Protection of the Crocker Mountain parcel will add significantly to protecting the character and nature of the A.T. as an historic and cultural resource and America's first example of a long-distance trail.
- Penobscot Indian Nation Lands – The Crocker Mountain parcel abuts lands owned by the Penobscot Indian Nation in Carrabassett Valley. The lands owned by the Penobscot Nation are owned in fee by the tribe, but are not federal trust lands. While the tribe does not classify this parcel as "conservation land" it is clear that their management in the near term is conservation oriented. Conservation of the Crocker Mountain parcel will strengthen traditional uses of the Penobscot Nation lands such as for hunting and enjoyment of the natural landscape.

- 3. Describe access to the project for recreational purposes: (0 pts if foot access to the parcel is not being guaranteed and/or vehicle access to project will not be available; 5 pts if foot access to the parcel is being guaranteed and vehicle access to the project will be available; scoring will recognize that vehicle access to certain lands such as high elevation parcels may not be appropriate).**

The entire Crocker Mountain parcel will be open to pedestrian recreational use under BPL ownership. The property also benefits from a network of timber management roads that will facilitate recreational access for hiking, hunting and snowmobiling. BPL would be able to work with surrounding landowners on how to manage this road system, including any decisions about gating or limiting access.

- 4. *Describe the future forest management objectives, what entity will be responsible for future forest management and how the property will be sustainably managed to protect the values identified in #2. Scoring is based upon the degree to which future forest management will be consistent with the Land for Maine's Future Program's most current policy for working forest easements: (0 pts if not consistent; 5 pts if highly consistent).***

Future forest management objectives will be at the discretion of the Bureau of Parks and Lands, which will be the fee owner. It is anticipated that BPL would continue to operate on the property for timber and that they would use their normal management planning process to develop harvest plans that comply with best management practices. It is the applicant's expectations that the BPL will do an excellent job balancing the ecological, recreational and timber objectives – better than if the parcel were to stay in private hands. Based on current stocking levels, we anticipate that there will be small pockets of harvestable wood right away and that after the first 10 years the commercial volume will increase dramatically.

¹⁷ National Parks Conservation Association: State of the Parks Report – Appalachian National Scenic Trail.
<http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/appalachian/>

THREATENED CRITERION (20 points maximum)

4. *Describe the extent to which the values identified in #2 are under threat of loss or conversion to non-forest uses (or were under threat prior to pre-acquisition). Describe the type, severity and imminence of the threat. Include a description of any legal protections that currently exist on the property; landowner circumstances; adjacent land use; and physical attributes of the parcel that could facilitate conversion: (5 pts if threat of loss or conversion is low; 10 pts if threat of loss or conversion is moderate; 20 pts if threat of loss or conversion is high).*

The property is currently threatened with conversion to non-forest uses via second home development or alpine ski area development. It is also vulnerable to liquidation forestry. The Crocker Mountain Parcel is owned by Plum Creek Timber Company and is being made available for a conservation sale at this time. If the sale does not proceed to the state or a conservation organization, then it seems likely that it will be put on the open market.

Given its proximity to Sugarloaf Ski Area it seems like other potential buyers would have development in mind – especially along the Stoney Brook Road, which provides easy access to Route 27, views of the Bigelow Range and Sugarloaf, and terrain suitable to development. Appraisers have also confirmed that they believe that there is a market for remote cabins elsewhere on the property, especially in locations with dramatic views and proximity to the Appalachian Trail, Bigelow Preserve, Rangeley Lakes, and other desirable recreation features.

Because of the steep slopes, cirques, and high ridges it also seems possible that this parcel could someday be targeted for alpine ski area development as the Bigelow Range once was. The large bowl (glacial cirque) on the east side of Crocker Mountain has been identified by MNAP as having rare species that are associated with the steep slopes, open ledges, scree fields, and deep snow pack. These same characteristics make for excellent ski terrain, which would present a high conflict with the ecological values and the scenic values associated with the Appalachian Trail.

Given the stocking levels of timber, other potential buyers would be liquidation forestry operators. Since the recent owners have harvested much of the timber in the last 25 years and invested in pre-commercial thinning and regeneration, a new owner will have to wait several years to see an adequate return on investment if they are to operate for timber on a sustainable basis. Since there are few buyers with this time horizon in today's market, it seems likely that potential bidders would be liquidation forestry operations that would push into otherwise remote and high elevation portions of the property in search of every remaining stick of wood. If the property were to fall into the hands of a liquidator, then the ecological and scenic values would be deeply compromised.

STRATEGIC CRITERION (30 points maximum)

2. *Describe the property's relevance or relationship to conservation efforts on a broader level. Describe the scale of the broader conservation plan, the scale of the project's contribution to that plan, and the placement of the project within the plan area. Describe whether the project is adjacent to or otherwise located so as to significantly enhance the values of existing conservation land. (0 pts if property is not part of a broader conservation plan; 15 pts if the property makes a modest contribution to a conservation effort and is near already*

protected lands; 30 pts if the property significantly advances a landscape scale or watershed-based conservation strategy through infill and/or key linkages and supports previous conservation investments.)

The Crocker Mountain Parcel is a strategic acquisition according to numerous conservation planning efforts. These include:

- Keeping Maine's Forests – Western Mountains and Lakes Pilot Area. This northern forest focused initiative is transitioning from planning to implementation. The program is seeking specific landscape-scale projects with the potential to attract public and private dollars to conserve the multiple values of Maine's working forests and assist forest landowners with expanded programmatic dollars for stewardship¹⁸. The initiative seeks to build on rather than supplant the Forest Legacy Program, and the Crocker Mountain parcel is perfectly positioned in the Western Mountains and Lakes Demonstration Area, one of the initiative's four identified demonstration areas. This project can serve as an anchor opportunity from which multiple future acquisition and stewardship opportunities build across the landscape. It fits well as an illustration of the program's vision statement to balance long-term timber management, enhancing recreational opportunities, and conserving important habitat.
- The Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) and the State Wildlife Action Plan – Mount Abraham/Crocker Mountain/Saddleback Focus Area: Elevation changes, unfragmented forests, and clean headwater streams are only three of the natural characteristics that make Crocker Mountain so important for conservation and a programmatic focus area for federal and state agencies, non-profit conservation partners, and landowners¹⁹. Continued field monitoring by MNAP's partners has identified this property as a strategic acquisition based on the rare ecological communities present. For instance, Crocker Mountain and its surrounds are critical breeding habitat for the Bicknell's thrush. The opportunity exists to link this working forest conservation outcome with the conserved lands in the Bigelow Preserve and Mount Abraham.
- The Maine A.T. Land Trust's Ecological Study of the High Peaks identifies this parcel as being a strategic conservation acquisition. The High Peaks region is unique in that it is the southern-most extension in the United States of the boreal forest transition zone extending out of Canada²⁰. The biophysical characteristics of this zone attract a mix of plant and animal species that occupy habitats more strictly to the north or more strictly to the south. The threat of development or intensive forestry operations risk fragmenting this important habitat type.
- This parcel is located in a Tier 1 (highest rank) Matrix Forest block as designated by The Nature Conservancy. A Matrix Forest block is part of an extended area of

¹⁸ Keeping Maine's Forests, A Landscape Forest Conservation Initiative, May 2010, Working Draft Form.

¹⁹ Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Beginning with Habitat, *Maine Conservation Priorities* map, September 2008

²⁰ McKinley, Peter. An Ecological Study of the High Peaks Region of Maine's Western Mountains. A project of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. 2007.

contiguous large tracts of undeveloped land of sufficient size to support populations of wildlife that are difficult to maintain elsewhere including Spruce Grouse, Warblers and Sparrows, Barred Owl, Pine Marten, Moose, Lynx, Fisher, and Bobcat.

- A significant portion of the Crocker Mountain Parcel (about 2/3 or approximately 8,000 acres) is adjacent to the 36,000-acre Bigelow Preserve, while the A.T. corridor running through the remaining southerly portion of the project provides connectivity with 6214 acres of BPL ownership in Mount Abram and about 1000 acres of the Redington Public Lot.

READINESS FACTORS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (30 points maximum)

- 7. *Describe the degree of match being provided as a percentage of the Total Project Cost (the Total Project Cost is the sum of acquisition and preacquisition costs, but does not include stewardship endowment; do not include funds raised for stewardship endowment as match): (0 pts if percent match is <50%; 5 pts if percent match is 50% or greater).***

We are requesting 75% of the purchase price from the federal Forest Legacy Program. The required match for this parcel (25%) will be raised by TPL, RLHT, and MATLT through applications to the Land for Maine's Future program and a private fundraising campaign. TPL will also cover all pre-acquisition costs related to survey, appraisal, title, and environmental due diligence.

- 8. *Describe the degree of project readiness including the status of each of the following:***

a. *preliminary appraisal*

Ongoing. We anticipate updating the Legacy Committee with firm appraisal data once it is complete and prior to project ranking.

b. *agreement on easement or fee acquisition conditions between landowner and state*

BPL has been thoroughly briefed about the opportunity and has indicated strong interest in acquiring Crocker Parcel in fee. No contractual agreement in place.

c. *cost-share commitment has been obtained from a specified source*

None. The project has just begun, but we are confident that we can raise private funds and LMF funds to meet the required Forest Legacy match.

d. *signed option or purchase and sales agreement is held by the state or at the request of the state OR at the request of the state, conservation easement or fee title is held by a third party*

Letter of interest from landowner will be forthcoming.

e. *title search is completed*

Landowner has provided deeds and all known title encumbrances to facilitate preliminary appraisal (see attached deed). There are third party rights of way for road access through the parcel. There are also Rights of Way for two high voltage power lines (related to the Kibby windfarm and the Boralex Biomass plant) that cut across the corner of the property near to Route 27. A formal title commitment from a reputable title insurance firm will be pursued if the project is ranked for funding.

f. minerals determination is completed

Minerals determination will be completed if the project is ranked for funding.

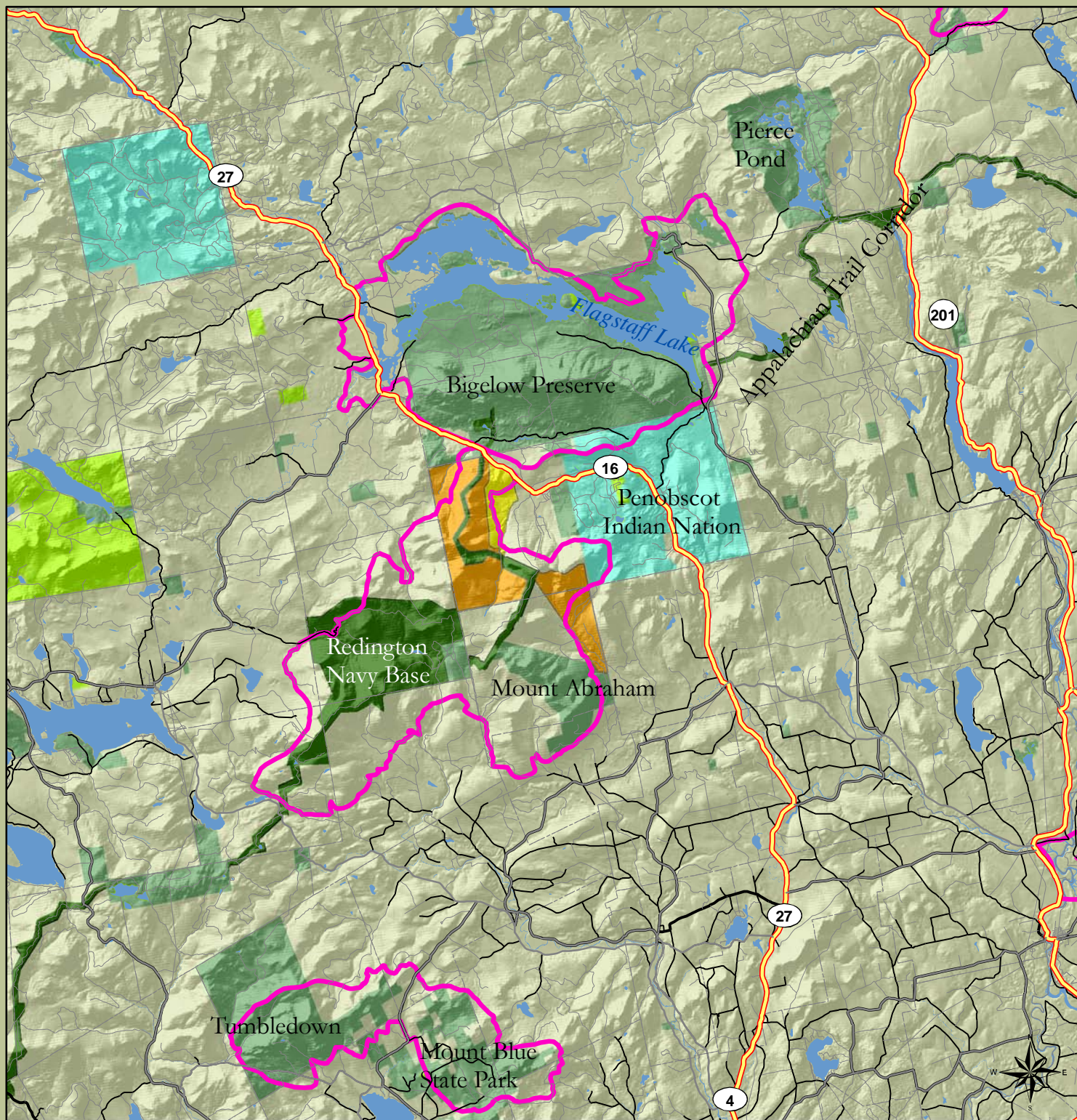
g. stewardship plan or multi-resource management plan is completed

This is a fee purchase so there is no stewardship plan required. BPL will have to incorporate this property into their unit management planning process. This will occur through an amendment or update to the Flagstaff Region Unit Management Plan. Proposals for new trails, roads or other improvements would go through normal BPL environmental review on a project-by-project basis.

- 9. *Describe the nature of ongoing management and stewardship of the fee or easement parcel. If fee, describe the potential for the parcel to generate revenue through timber harvesting, recreational fees, or other revenue streams directly connected to the parcel. Describe the annual management and stewardship costs of the parcel and the size of endowment needed to cover these costs using, in the case of easements, the model recommended in BPL's Monitoring Costs and Stewardship Endowment Levels for Maine Working Forest Easements <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/forestlegacy.shtml> or more recent BPL guidance, or, in the case of fee lands, most recent BPL guidance on the issue. Describe landowner or conservation partner's commitment to raise the necessary endowment. (0 pts if easement without commitment to raise full stewardship endowment; 20 pts if easement with commitment to raise full stewardship endowment; 10 pts if fee parcel with no or partial endowment commitment; 20 pts if fee parcel with commitment to raise full stewardship endowment or applicant demonstrates that land management will yield sufficient revenue, beginning at closing, to fully support land stewardship)***

The property will be acquired and managed in fee by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. More than 7,000 acres of the 11,798 are commercially operable and there is a range of stocking levels on this parcel. Currently, there are pockets of commercial timber that can be harvested in the near term, while other areas have been harvested in the last 25 years and are in a regeneration phase. The analysis by BPL foresters and by the appraiser indicates that there will be only modest returns from timber in the first 10 years followed by more commercially viable stands starting after 10 years. Overall the property has good growing stock that has been carefully managed and will provide needed revenue for BPL over the middle and long terms.

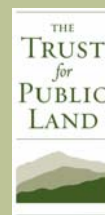
Analysis by BPL staff indicates that there are no known management costs other than routine monitoring and light road maintenance inherent in owning this property. Currently most of the road system is passable, there are no known management headaches (such as dumps or abandoned buildings), and there are no immediate recreation access needs (such as a boat ramps or parking lots). In light of this management situation and the anticipated timber revenue, it is TPL's opinion that this parcel meets the criterion of being a fee parcel with sufficient revenue to support land stewardship costs. If the Forest Legacy Committee feels otherwise, TPL is open to discuss any required management or stewardship funding needs.

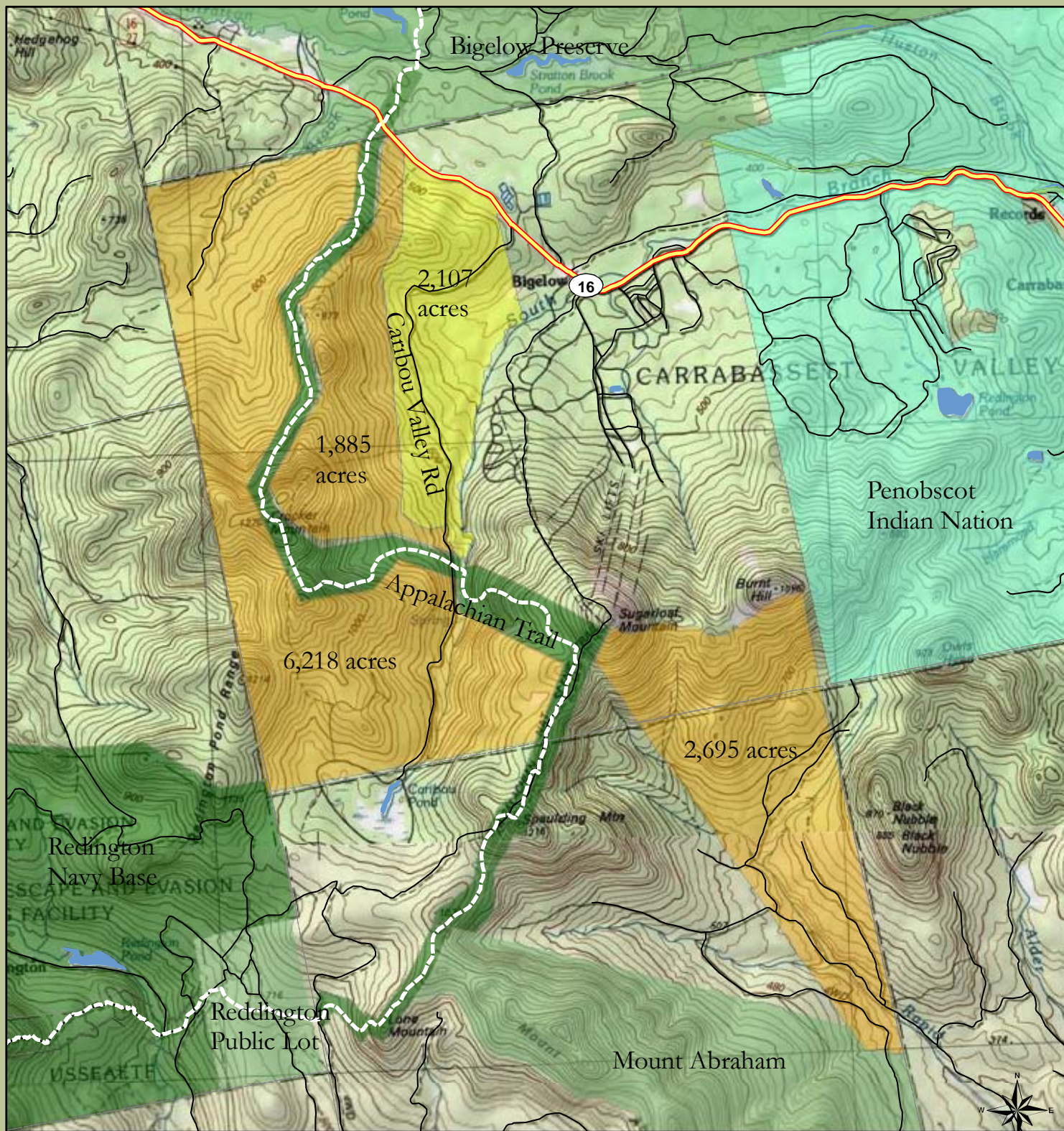


- Proposed to be Retained by Plum Creek
- Proposed Crocker Mountain Project
- State Wildlife Action Plan Focus Areas
- Federal Land
- State Land
- Private Conservation Land
- Penobscot Indian Nation Conservation Land

Crocker Mountain Conservation Project Carrabasset Valley & Mt Abram Township, ME

Property boundaries courtesy of Plum Creek. Boundaries are approximate. Created by The Trust of Public Land on March 5, 2010. Focus Areas from Maine's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy courtesy of Maine Natural Areas Program. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

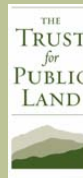
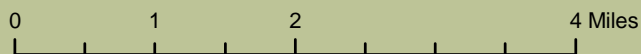


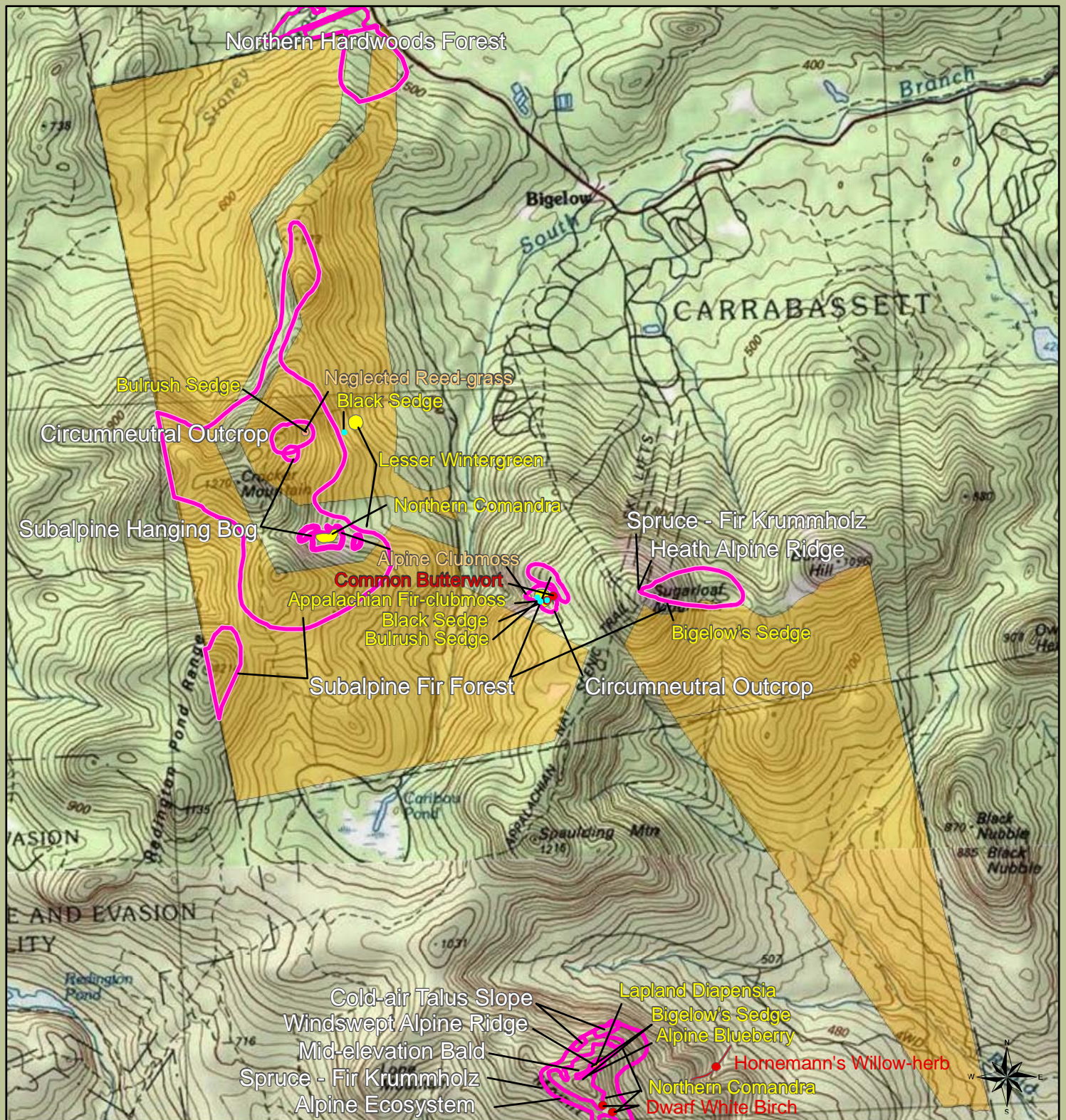







- Proposed to be Retained by Plum Creek - 2,107 acres
- Proposed Crocker Mountain Project - 11,798 acres
- Appalachian Trail
- Federal Land
- State Land
- Private Conservation Land
- Penobscot Indian National Conservation Land

Crocker Mountain Conservation Project Carrabasset Valley & Mt Abram Township, ME

Property boundaries courtesy of Plum Creek. Boundaries are approximate. Created by The Trust of Public Land on April 15, 2010. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.





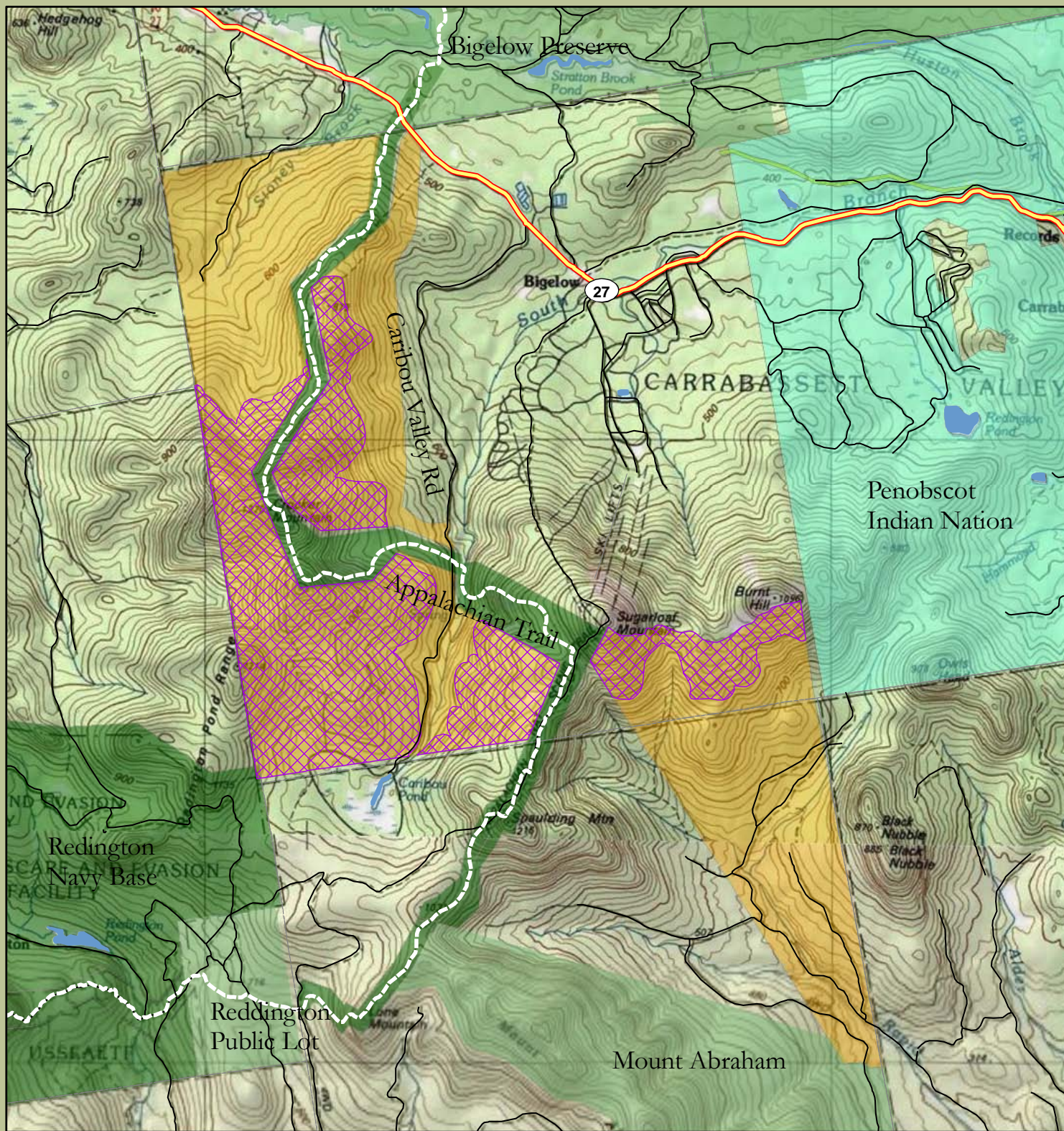
-  Proposed Crocker Mountain Project - 11,798 acres
-  Rare or Exemplary Natural Community
-  State Endangered Species
-  State Threatened Species
-  State Species of Special Concern







Crocker Mountain Natural Heritage Carrabasset Valley & Mt Abram Township, ME

Property boundaries courtesy of Plum Creek. Boundaries are approximate. Rare species and communities data courtesy of Maine Natural Areas Program. Created by The Trust of Public Land on 5/16/10. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

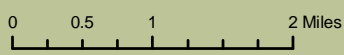


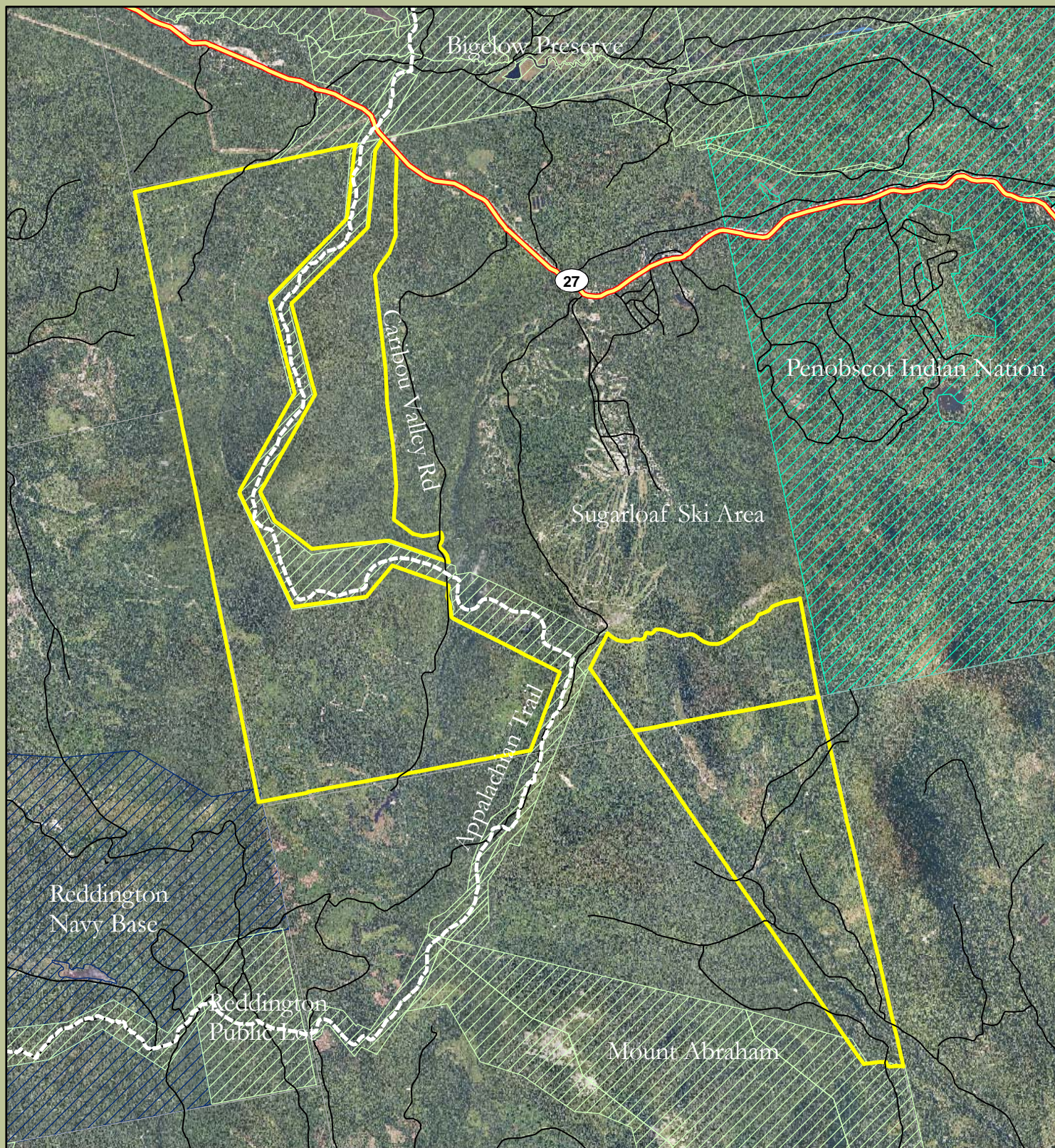







-  Proposed Crocker Mountain Project - 11,798 acres
-  High Elevation lands (above 2700 ft) - 4,913 acres
-  Appalachian Trail
-  Federal Land
-  State Land
-  Penobscot Indian Nation Land

Crocker Mountain Conservation Project Carrabasset Valley & Mt Abram Township, ME

Property boundaries and Maine Huts & Trails boundary courtesy of Plum Creek. Boundaries are approximate. Created by The Trust of Public Land on April 16, 2010. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.





-  Proposed Crocker Mountain Project
11,798 acres
-  Public Conservation Lands
-  Other Federal Land
-  Penobscot Indian Nation
-  Appalachian Trail

Aerial of Crocker Mountain Conservation Project Carrabasset Valley & Mt Abram Township, ME

Property boundaries courtesy of Plum Creek. Boundaries are approximate. Aerial is NAIP 2009. Created by The Trust of Public Land on May 16, 2010. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



Carrabassett Valley
Franklin County
S. D. Warren Company

QUITCLAIM DEED
Without Covenant

010507

S. D. WARREN COMPANY, a Pennsylvania corporation with a mailing address of 225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 ("Grantor") hereby grants to **SDW TIMBER II, L.L.C.**, a Delaware limited liability company with a mailing address of 225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 ("Grantee"), all of Grantor's right, title and interest in and to the land, together with any improvements located thereon, and all merchantable and unmerchantable timber located thereon, whether growing, lying or standing, situated in Carrabassett Valley, County of Franklin and State of Maine, more particularly described on **Schedule A** attached hereto and made a part hereof

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all rights, easements, privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to the said Grantee, its successors and assigns forever

MEANING AND INTENDING TO CONVEY and hereby conveying all of the real property owned by Grantor that is situated in Carrabassett Valley, Franklin County, Maine, whether or not specifically described on Schedule A

Said premises is conveyed subject to real estate taxes and assessments not yet due and payable

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said S D Warren Company has caused this instrument to be executed this 5th day of November, 1998

WITNESS:**S. D. WARREN COMPANY**

[Signature]

By [Signature]
Print Name Sarah G Manchester
Its Assistant Secretary

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK ss

November 5, 1998

Personally appeared the above-named Sarah G Manchester,
Assistant Secretary of S D Warren Company and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his/her free act and deed in his/her said capacity, and the free act and deed of said corporation

Before me,

SEAL

[Signature]
Notary Public/Attorney-at-Law
Print name _____
My commission expires _____

KAREN M. MORASH, Notary Public
My Commission Expires April 15, 2005

Maine Real Estate
Transfer Tax Not Necessary

SCHEDULE A

Tract 1

Township No. Four (4) Range Two (2) B.K.P.W.K.R. (Crockertown) excepting the "Two Thousand Acre Tract" and the "Height of Land Farm", both so-called. Excepting and reserving, however, the Public Lots in said Township. Containing in said township 19,840 acres, more or less, and in said public lots 1175 acres, more or less.

Tract 2

All those certain lots or parcels of land (together with the buildings and fixtures thereon, if any), easements, rights and interests located in the Town of Carrabassett Valley, Franklin Counties in the State of Maine as conveyed by Kennebec River Pulp & Paper Company, Inc. to Kennebec Development Corporation by deed dated September 15, 1971 and recorded in Somerset County Registry of Deeds in Book 810, Page 66 and in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 436, Page 210 and by Kennebec Development Corporation to The Merrill Trust Company by Mortgage Bond Indenture dated September 15, 1971 and recorded in Somerset County Registry of Deeds in Book 810, Page 80 and in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 436, Page 216, excepting therefrom only the following:

1. Deed from Kennebec Development Corporation to T.P. Property Corp. dated February 15, 1977 and recorded in Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 507, Page 46.

**EXCEPTING AND RESERVING FROM THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED LAND THE
FOLLOWING PARCELS:**

- 1 A certain lot or parcel of land situate in Township 4, Range 2, B K P W K R , known as Sugarloaf, formerly Crockertown, and bounded and described as follows

An area on the northwest and southerly side of Sugarloaf Mountain and more particularly described as follows Starting at the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain and then proceeding along bearings and distances as given in Appendix A generally northwesterly down the Appalachian Trail a distance of 109 95 chains to a point where the northwest property line of Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation intersects the Appalachian Trail, this portion of the Appalachian Trail being the old property line between Scott paper Company et al and Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation, thence proceeding westerly a distance of 5 80 chains, thence, continuing generally southeasterly a distance of 113 54 chains to a post, thence, southeasterly 6 82 chains to a post, thence, easterly 17 11 chains to a post, thence, northerly 9 89 chains to a post on the former property line between Scott Paper Company et al and Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation, thence westerly along the former property line approximately 17 00 chains to the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain, the point of beginning This parcel containing sixty-nine acres, more or less.

- 2 A certain lot or parcel of land situated in Carrabassett Valley, in the County of Franklin, State of Maine, more particularly described as follows

The 7+/- acre parcel of land situated on the northwesterly side of the South Branch of the Carrabassett River, as delineated by cross-hatched lines on the sketch plan by Robert Trent Jones II (Scale 1" = 200'), dated 4/23/1982, described in deed from S D Warren Company dated December 1, 1988, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 1079, Page 311

3. A certain lot or parcel of land situated in the Town of Carrabassett Valley, formerly known as Sugarloaf Township, T4 R2 BKP WKR, County of Franklin, State of Maine, generally bounded and described as follows: Bordered on the east by lands now or formerly owned by Sugarloaf, on the north by lands now or formerly owned by the Bigelow Corporation, on the west by the South Branch of the Carrabassett River, and on the south by other lands owned by Scott.

And more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a post on the south line of land now or formerly of Bigelow Corporation marked "S. Mt. Corp. § 1956" about 70 feet westerly of the access road to Sugarloaf Ski Area; thence on the following courses and distances following a line in common with the land of Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation; thence south $25^{\circ} 22'$ west 676 feet to a post and stones marked S. Mt. Corp. § 1956, thence south $64^{\circ} 54'$ east 287 feet to a post and stones marked S. Mt. Corp. § 1956; thence south $23^{\circ} 58'$ west 8063 feet to a pile of stones on the former Appalachian Trail; thence south $89^{\circ} 00'$ west 251 feet to a point; thence south $78^{\circ} 00'$ west 132 feet to a post and stones; thence south $28^{\circ} 00'$ east 145 feet to a point; thence south $26^{\circ} 00'$ east 132 feet to a point; thence south $27^{\circ} 00'$ east 66 feet to a point; thence south $32^{\circ} 00'$ east 132 feet to a point; thence south $10^{\circ} 00'$ east 66 feet to a point; thence south $34^{\circ} 00'$ east 132 feet to a point; thence south $29^{\circ} 00'$ east 264 feet to a point; thence south $27^{\circ} 00'$ east 132 feet to a point; thence south $12^{\circ} 00'$ east 132 feet to a point; thence south $36^{\circ} 00'$ east 109 feet to a point; thence south $37^{\circ} 00'$ east 264 feet to a point; thence south $27^{\circ} 00'$ east 132 feet to a point; thence south $38^{\circ} 00'$ east 132 feet to a point; thence south $32^{\circ} 00'$ east 179 feet to an iron rod in a pile of stones; thence south $82^{\circ} 06' 26''$ west 2640 feet to a 6" white birch marked "SMC"; thence continuing in the same direction south $82^{\circ} 06' 26''$ west approximately 1830 feet more or less to the centerline of the South Branch of the Carrabassett River; thence turning and running downstream along the thread of the stream in a generally northerly, then northeasterly direction for approximately 14,900 feet more or less to the point where the said Carrabassett River meets with the westerly most line of land now or formerly owned by the Bigelow Corporation; thence turning and running south $13^{\circ} 15'$ east 2900 feet following a line in common with land now or formerly of Bigelow Corporation, to an old yellow birch; thence north $77^{\circ} 57'$ east 2964 feet following a line in common with land now or formerly of Bigelow Corporation to the post at the point of beginning.

The above described parcel of land contains 1,170 acres \pm .

4. ^{two} *certain lots or parcels of land* located in the Town of Carrabassett Valley, County of Franklin, State of Maine, described as follows:

PARCEL ONE: Beginning on the easterly line of Route 27 where the northerly line of land formerly of Bigelow Corporation and now of Mountain Greenery intersects Route 27, thence running in an easterly direction along the northerly line of Mountain Greenery about two miles to the easterly line of what was formerly T 4, R 2, B.K.P., W.K.R. (Crockertown), and being also the westerly line of what was formerly Jerusalem, to a post on said line which marks the northeasterly corner of said Mountain Greenery, thence northerly on said former east town line (T 4, R 2, B.K.P., W.K.R.), approximately 0.3 miles to a post in said former town line, which is at the southeast corner of Height of Land Farm, so-called; thence following the south and west property lines of said Height of Land Farm approximately 1.7 miles to a point on the north town line of what was formerly T 4, R 2, B.K.P., W.K.R. and now is Carrabassett Valley, being the southerly line of the township of Wyman, which is approximately 0.6 mile westerly, by said town line, from the former northwest corner of Jerusalem; thence westerly along said north town line to the east line of Route 27; thence south and southeasterly along the easterly line of Route 27 to the point of beginning.

PARCEL TWO: Beginning at a post and stones marked PL 1926 No. 3 on what was formerly the West Town line of Jerusalem Township at the southeast corner of the Public Lot in what was formerly Crockertown; thence in a southerly direction following what was formerly the West Town line of Jerusalem about 5649 feet to a post and stones on the East Town line of what was formerly Crockertown and the land formerly of Kennebec Pulp and Paper Company, Inc. and now of Maine Guarantee Authority; thence on the following courses and distances following a line in common with the land formerly of Kennebec Pulp and Paper Company, Inc.; thence South 82° West, 1326 feet to a point; thence South 67° West, 580 feet to a rock cairn on the summit of Burnt Hill; thence South 28° West, 284 feet to a point; thence South 72° West, 395 feet to a point; thence South 79° West, 381 feet to a point, thence South 43° West, 959 feet to a point; thence South 08° West, 338 feet to a point; thence South 23° West, 298 feet to a point, thence South 58° West, 1353 feet to a point; thence North 39° West, 213 feet to a point, thence North 52° West, 1396 feet to a point; thence North 80° West, 254 feet to a point in the southeasterly corner of a 200 acre parcel of land conveyed to Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation by deed dated December 16, 1975 and recorded in Franklin Registry of Deeds, Book 495, Page 76; thence North 12° 35' East 7,008 feet, more or less to the northeasterly corner of said 200 acre parcel; thence North 81° 30' East, 3820 feet, more or less, also following a line in common with the Public Lot to a post at the point of beginning.

5. A certain unimproved lot or parcel of land of rectangular form, lying generally easterly of and fronting on state highway 27, and also lying southerly of and adjoining the premises described as PARCEL SIX in deed of even date of easements from Grantor to Grantee and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the easterly side line of state highway 27, said point being the point of intersection of said side line with the southerly side line of the premises described as PARCEL SIX, and marked by an iron pin driven into the ground; thence southeasterly along the easterly side line of state highway 27 four hundred ninety (490) feet and to remaining land now or formerly of Scott Paper Company; thence easterly by the northerly side line of said land now or formerly of Scott Paper Company twenty (20) feet to a point, in said side line last mentioned, marked by an iron pin driven into the ground; thence continuing easterly by the northerly side line of said land now or formerly of Scott Paper Company four hundred eighty (480) feet to a point, marked by an iron pin driven into the ground; thence northwesterly by a course making an included angle of sixty-two degrees seventeen minutes ($62^{\circ} 17'$) with the course last described four hundred ninety (490) feet and to a point in the southerly side line of the premises described as said PARCEL SIX, marked by an iron pin driven into the ground; thence westerly along the southerly side line of the premises hereinabove described as said PARCEL SIX five hundred (500) feet to the easterly side line of state highway 27 and the point of beginning.

The above described premises contained five (5.0) acres, more or less.

6. A largely triangular parcel of land in Carrabassett Valley, T4, R2, B.K.P.W.K.R., bounded on the north and northeast by land of Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation and on the southwest by the northeasterly line of land Grantor conveyed to the United States of America for the Appalachian Trail Corridor, said Appalachian Trail Corridor,

- 7 Beginning at a post surrounded with stones on the south line of the Evelyn B Brown tract that is 58 56 chains, more or less, westerly along said south line from its intersection with the west line of the Public Lot Said post is marked "S Mt Corp " " \oint 1956" and witnessed on 2 trees " \oint 1956", thence S 44° W by and along a newly spotted line 12 20 chains, more or less, to a post surrounded by stones marked "S Mt Corp \oint 1956" and witnessed on 3 trees " \oint 1956", thence S 83° E by and along a newly spotted line 19 77 chains, more or less, to a post surrounded by stones marked "S Mt Corp 1956" on the west bank of a brook running northerly which heads in the basin between Burnt Hill and Sugarloaf Mountain, thence southerly following up said brook approximately 153 chains to a post surrounded with stones marked "S Mt Corp 1956 \oint " and witnessed on the west bank of said brook, thence on a course of S 35° W by and along a newly spotted line about 82 chains to a post surrounded with stones marked "S Mt Corp 1956 \oint " and witnessed and situated on the height of land between Sugarloaf Mountain and Burnt Hill as shown on the U S G S sheet of the Stratton quadrangle, thence N 71° W by and along a newly spotted line for about 12 chains to stunted growth and continuing on, in the same general course to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain and the Appalachian Club trail, thence westerly and northwesterly along the Appalachian trail about 110 chains to a pile of stones situate about 5 chains northwesterly of a small knob said trail passes over, thence N 44° E by and along a newly spotted line 117 chains, more or less, to a post surrounded with stones marked "S Mt Corp \oint 1956" and witnessed on 3 trees " \oint 1956", thence N 46° W by and along a newly spotted line 4 35 chains, more or less, to a post surrounded by stones marked "S Mt Corp \oint 1956" and witnessed on 3 trees " \oint 1956", thence N 44° E by and along a newly spotted line 10 25 chains, more or less, to a post on the south line of the Evelyn B Brown tract marked "S Mt Corp \oint 1956" and witnessed on 2 trees " \oint 1956", thence S 81° E by and along the southerly line of the Evelyn B Brown tract 8 45 chains, more or less, to the point of beginning All courses magnetic of 1956 Said tract contains 1,535 acres to be the same, more or less.

8. Further excepting and reserving that parcel of land Conveyed by S.D. Warren Company to the United States of America, dated September 21, 1988 and recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 1056, Page 317 (Appalachian Trail).

Reference is made to the following deeds for the preceding descriptions of Tracts 1 and 2

Tract 1 Deed from Great Northern Paper Company to Scott Paper Company dated July 11, 1955, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 339, Page 65

Tract 2 Deed from Maine Guarantee Authority to Scott Paper Company dated April 8, 1983, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 726, Page 302

Lands of Scott Paper Company were conveyed by Scott Paper Company to S D Warren Company (a Pennsylvania corporation) by deed dated July 24, 1986, recorded in Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 913, Page 6

Reference is made to the following deeds for excepted and reserved Parcels 1 through 7

- 1 Deed from Scott Paper Company, et al to Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation dated December 27, 1965, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 395, Page 578
- 2 Deed from S D Warren Company to Inhabitants of the Municipality of Carrabassett Valley dated December 1, 1988, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 1079, Page 311
- 3 Deed from Scott Paper Company to Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation dated August 9, 1979, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 596, Page 8
- 4 Deed from Scott Paper Company to Timberlands, Inc dated February 17, 1983, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 727, Page 276
- 5 Deed from Scott Paper Company to Central Maine Power Company dated November 29, 1976, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 503, Page 308
- 6 Deed from S D Warren Company to Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation dated December 20, 1990, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 1198, Page 336
- 7 Deed from Scott Paper Company to the Economy Corporation dated December 31, 1958, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 358, Page 162

FRANKLIN, SS REC'D.

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ATTEST-REGISTER

Page 7 of 7

Susan A Black

QUITCLAIM DEED
Without Covenant

010511

S. D. WARREN COMPANY, a Pennsylvania corporation with a mailing address of 225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 ("Grantor") hereby grants to SDW TIMBER II, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company with a mailing address of 225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 ("Grantee"), all of Grantor's right, title and interest in and to the land, together with any improvements located thereon, and all merchantable and unmerchantable timber located thereon, whether growing, lying or standing, situated in Mt Abram, County of Franklin and State of Maine, more particularly described on Schedule A attached hereto and made a part hereof

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all rights, easements, privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to the said Grantee, its successors and assigns forever

MEANING AND INTENDING TO CONVEY and hereby conveying all of the real property owned by Grantor that is situated in Mt Abram, Franklin County, Maine, whether or not specifically described on Schedule A

Said premises is conveyed subject to real estate taxes and assessments not yet due and payable

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said S D Warren Company has caused this instrument to be executed this 5th day of November, 1998

WITNESS:

S. D. WARREN COMPANY

[Signature]

By [Signature]
Print Name Sarah F Manchester
Its Assistant Secretary

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK ssNovember 5, 1998

Personally appeared the above-named Sarah F. Manchester
Assistant Secretary of S D Warren Company and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his/her free act and deed in his/her said capacity, and the free act and deed of said corporation

Before me,

SEAL

[Signature]
Notary Public/Attorney-at-Law
Print name _____
My commission expires _____

KAREN M. MORASH, Notary Public
My Commission Expires April 15, 2005

Maine Real Estate
Transfer Tax Not Necessary

Tract 1

A certain lot or parcel of land situated in Township 4 Range 1 BKPWKR (Mt Abram), Franklin County, Maine, bounded and described as follows

Minister's Lot - Beginning at a moose wood tree standing on the east line of said Township and 580 rods from the southeast corner thereof, thence north 3° east 320 rods to a rock maple tree standing 15 rods north of the south branch of the seven mile brook, thence north 87° west passing over said brook 160 rods to a fir tree spotted and sealed, thence south 3° west 320 rods to a rock maple tree spotted and sealed, thence south 87° east 160 rods to the bound begun at.

Tract 2

All these certain lots or parcels of land (together with the buildings and fixtures thereon, if any) in Township No four (4), Range One (1) B K.P W K R. (Mt. Abram), the County of Franklin and State of Maine as conveyed by Kennebec River Pulp & Paper Company, Inc. to Kennebec Development Corporation by deed dated September 15, 1971 and recorded in Somerset County Registry of Deeds in Book 810, Page 66, and in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 436, Page 210 and by Kennebec Development Corporation to The Merrill Trust Company by Mortgage Bond Indenture dated September 15, 1971 and recorded in Somerset County Registry of Deeds in Book 810, Page 80 and in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 436, Page 216, excepting therefrom only the following:

- 1). Deed from Kennebec Development Corporation to T.P Property Corp. dated February 15, 1977 and recorded in Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 507, Page 46.
- 2) . Excepting and reserving therefrom lands conveyed by S.D Warren Company to United States of America by deeds dated September 21, 1988 and June 13, 1990, and recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 1056, Page 317, and 1178, Page 308 respectively.

Further excepting therefrom any interest in public lots as conveyed by Scott Paper Company to the State of Maine, dated May 7, 1985 and recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 1319, Page 207
- 3) . Further excepting the following described parcel of land: A somewhat triangular parcel of land in Mt. Abram Township, T4, R1, B.K.P.W.K.R., bounded on the north by the Town Line of Carrabassett Valley, on the southwest by land of Oxford Paper Company, sometimes referred to as Boise Cascade, and on the southeast by the northwesterly line of land Grantor Conveyed to the United States of America for the Appalachian Trail Corridor.
- 4) . Excepting and reserving from the above described premises any and all public roads or great ponds.

Reference is made to the following deeds for the preceding descriptions of Tracts 1 and 2

Tract 1	Deed from the State of Maine to S D Warren Company dated November 27, 1970, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 1194, Page 302
Tract 2	Deed from the Maine Guaranty Authority to Scott Paper Company dated April 8, 1983, recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 726, Page 302

Lands of S D Warren Company (a Massachusetts corporation) and Scott Paper Company were conveyed by Scott Paper Company (successor by merger to said S D Warren Company) to S D Warren Company (a Pennsylvania corporation) by deed dated July 24, 1986 recorded in Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 913 Page 6
FRANKLIN, SS REC'D.

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ATTEST-REGISTER *Susan A Black* Page 1 of 1

A. Maine Forest Legacy Program Summary Information Form

Maine Forest Legacy Program proposals are due once each year, generally June 1st. Proposals in five copies must be sent to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0022. An electronic copy of the proposal must also be submitted by CD or DVD. Please provide the following information as part of your Maine Forest Legacy Program proposal.

Date: May 28, 2010

Project Title: Orbeton Stream

Project Location (township and county): Madrid Township, Franklin County

Name, Address, Telephone Number and Contact Person of Landowner: Linkletter Timberland LLC,
Robert E. Linkletter, P.O. Box 135, Athens, ME 04912, 207-654-2301

Name, Address and Telephone Number and Contact Person of Partner Organization (if applicable):

- Trust for Public Land, Wolfe Tone, Maine State Director, 377 Fore Street, Portland, ME 04101, 207-772-7424
- Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, Nancy Perlson, Executive Director, PO Box 249, Oquossoc, ME 04964, 207-864-7311
- Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, Carole Haas, Executive Director, PO Box 761, Portland, ME 04104, 207-767-6303

Land Protection Method (easement or fee) and Management Entity Proposed: Easement with underlying fee remaining with Linkletter Timberland.

Abstract of Project: The Orbeton Stream project would place easement on 5,945 acres of working forest land adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. The property hosts important ecological features and supports endangered Atlantic salmon, native brook trout, and a wide variety of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. Conservation of this property will ensure a continued source of sustainably managed and certified forest products while protecting a strategically important parcel that is at great risk of development.

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$1,933,500

Acquisition cost: \$1,783,500

Preacquisition costs including, but not limited to, legal, survey and appraisal costs: \$150,000

Forest Legacy Funding Request (\$) (must not exceed 75% of the above Total Project Cost):
\$1,337,625

Matching Funds to be provided (\$ and source) (must equal at least 25% of the Total Project Cost): \$595,875. The required match for this parcel will be raised by TPL, RLHT, and MATLT through applications to the Land for Maine's Future program and a private fundraising campaign.

Annual Management Costs and Easement Stewardship Endowment Commitment (see BPL's Easement Monitoring Costs and Stewardship Endowment Levels for Maine Working Forest Easements for requirements: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/forestlegacy.shtml>): The Orbeton Stream parcel is currently managed as a working forest with an open public use policy by Linkletter Timberland. The Trust for Public Land, Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, and Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust are committed to raising the appropriate level of endowment funding as determined by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. If the project is ranked, the partners will immediately begin raising money to fund the endowment.

Applicant Signature

**Maine Forest Legacy Program
Scoring Criteria**

**Orbeton Stream Parcel – 5,945-acre easement purchase
from Linkletter Timberland**

IMPORTANCE CRITERIA (30 points maximum)

1. Identify total size of project: (0 pts if < 10,000 Acres; 5 pts if >10,000 Acres).

5,945 acres in easement to the Bureau of Parks and Lands

2. Describe to what extent the project contains each public value

- h. Economic benefits from timber and potential forest productivity (including landowner commitment to sustainable forest management in accordance with a management plan and whether land is third party certified; whether forestry activities contribute to the region's resource-based economy; and whether the property contains characteristics to sustain a productive forest)***

The Orbeton Stream parcel has an elevation range of 1,200' to 2,400' with a wide variety of forest cover from coniferous, mixed, and deciduous forest types.

The parcel is owned and managed by a family run company. Linkletter Timberland has shown a strong commitment to sustainable forestry and is currently Master Logger certified. In keeping with their long-term commitment to sustainable forestry, the Orbeton Stream parcel is in the process of being third-party certified under the Forest Stewardship Council. The company employs about 43 people and produces saw logs, pulp and chips that feed all of the major local mills; SAPPI (Skowhegan), New Page (Rumford), Verso (Jay), Irving, Hancock Lumber (Casco), and Isaacson Lumber (Livermore Falls).

- i. Economic benefits from non-timber products (such as non-timber forest products and guided outdoor recreation)***

The Orbeton Stream property is in the primary foreground viewshed of the Appalachian Trail and maintaining it in its undeveloped state is integral to keeping this section of the A.T. in the High Peaks as a destination recreation area. This section of trail is sought out by thousands of people every year, as it is part of a spectacular 3-5 day backpacking trip. Similarly, the Orbeton Stream area is well known for its fishing opportunities for native brook trout. These recreational visitors have a noticeable impact on tourism related businesses in Stratton, Rangeley and Kingfield. The hotels, restaurants, and grocery stores in these towns get a significant proportion of their business from hikers and anglers. Protection of the Orbeton Stream parcel will preserve this area as a destination for out of state visitors.

j. Public recreation opportunities

The Orbeton Stream parcel is home to a diversity of recreational opportunities. The parcel is a traditional open space recreation commons for activities compatible with a working forest; hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, paddling, ATV riding, wildlife viewing, informal backcountry camping, and dog-sledding all occur seasonally.

Orbeton Stream itself, which traverses the length of the eastern portion of the property, is at the center of much of the current public use. The stream is a valuable fishery that has become a destination for anglers searching for brook trout. This stretch of water also contains undeveloped shores and class IV and V rapids, which attracts white-water paddlers in search of a remote experience.

Traditionally motorized recreation has also been allowed on the property. This parcel contains approximately 6.5 miles of Maine's ITS snowmobile trail system and some club ATV trails. Included within these interconnected motorized trail systems is a scenic section of the abandoned Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Narrow Gauge Railroad along Orbeton Stream. In 2006 the landowner was nominated by ATV Maine for the *Maine Landowner Appreciation Award*.

An important recreation corridor access road also traverses the Orbeton Stream property. The nearest public road to the south, the East Madrid Road, leads to a network of management roads that travels through the Orbeton parcel and crosses over the Appalachian Trail onto the Lone Mountain Connector parcel. This road system is used to access the AT and as a starting point to hike into the Mount Abraham Ecological Preserve.

The Orbeton Parcel's most significant recreation potential will be to serve as an enhanced through-connecting corridor for both motorized and non-motorized backcountry trail systems. Viewed in the larger context of the western Maine mountains region and its core High Peaks area, the Orbeton Parcel is one of only a few remaining strategically located large parcels capable of linking the region's major public and private resort recreation areas. South of the Orbeton Parcel are the Mt. Blue/Tumbledown public lands, north and east are the Bigelow/Mt. Abraham public lands and Sugarloaf/Carrabassett Valley resort complex, and north and west are the Four Ponds and Rangeley area public lands and Rangeley Lakes/Saddleback resort complex. Strategically, the Orbeton Parcel is a keystone conservation acquisition essential to connecting all three of these established public lands-based recreation areas. Without conservation of the Orbeton Parcel, it will be very difficult to connect the three areas, since no other large parcels lie at the crossing of the backcountry routes between them. Of course, additional conservation acquisitions will be necessary to complete this vision of a western mountain backcountry recreation conservation region; however, without the Orbeton Parcel it is difficult to envision how it could otherwise be accomplished.

The Orbeton Parcel has ample backcountry open space recreation potential compatible with continuing working forest operations. Once the fragmenting private development option is removed and replaced by active management for public recreation, open space planning will lead to well-located trailheads, educational and interpretive signage, multiple-use and dedicated backcountry trail systems, low-intensity camping sites, and nearby private recreation services. The primary attractions will remain the numerous panoramic views afforded by the Orbeton Stream valley's natural terrain, the opportunities for wildlife encounters and remote experiences, and the special interest of the pristine Orbeton Stream and its tributaries. Current designated snowmobile and ATV trails can be enhanced to assure quality riding and viewing experiences. New hiking, walking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding trails can be located to take advantage of the varied terrain, views, and natural features.

- k. High value plant and animal habitat as identified by state, regional, or federal programs, including but not limited to Significant Wildlife Habitat; Beginning with Habitat Focus Areas; habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species (including Essential Habitat and Critical Habitat); and rare or exemplary natural communities.***

The Orbeton Stream parcel is within the Mount Abraham-Saddleback-Crocker Mountains Beginning with Habitat Focus Area²¹. This parcel contains important natural areas and critical riparian habitat.

The entire Orbeton Stream parcel has been designated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as Critical Habitat for the federally listed endangered Atlantic salmon. Orbeton Stream has been identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission as having extensive salmon spawning and rearing habitat²².

In 2008 Paul Christman, from Maine's Department of Marine Resources (DMR) reported that:

“DMR has been conducting habitat surveys and introducing small numbers of Atlantic salmon into the Sandy River drainage including Orbeton and Perham streams. We have documented well over 20,000 units (unit=100m square) and found that survival of juveniles and spawning adults is outstanding. This remote region of the Sandy River was chosen as the most likely location to begin restoration due to the high quality and extensive habitat. Last year for the first time we had adult salmon return from the North Atlantic Ocean that were reared in the Sandy River. This is the first time this has happened in over 150 years. Last year we documented spawning of adult salmon in the Sandy River and at least two of its tributaries including Orbeton Stream.”

²¹ Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Beginning with Habitat, *Maine Conservation Priorities* map, September 2008

²² National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, *Atlantic Salmon Gulf of Maine Distinct Population and Critical Habitat Map Book*, http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/altsalmon/DPSMapBook/index.html

Orbeton Stream is also important native brook trout habitat. The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, a coalition of dozens of organizations and state and federal agencies, identifies the property's sub-watersheds as the highest priorities for protection; giving it the Venture's highest possible priority score.²³

The Maine Natural Areas Program has identified areas of the property that likely contain sub-alpine fir forest, a rare natural community. MNAP also believes it is likely that the property intersects a mapped Spruce-fir-birch krummholz natural community at the ridge and high elevation slopes along the Appalachian Trail Corridor. Spruce-fir-birch-krummholz natural communities are considered rare in Maine (S3).²⁴

This parcel is located in a Tier 1 (highest rank) Matrix Forest block that is designated by The Nature Conservancy. These Matrix Forest blocks are part of an extended area of contiguous large tracts of undeveloped land of sufficient size to support populations of wildlife that are difficult to maintain elsewhere including Spruce Grouse, Warblers and Sparrows, Barred Owl, Pine Marten, Moose, Lynx, Fisher, and Bobcat.

l. water supply and watershed protection, and/or containing important riparian areas, wetlands, shorelines, or river systems

The Orbeton Stream property transitions from a steep high elevation environment on its northern boundary to a more gradual middle elevation on the south. Orbeton Stream flows out of Redington Pond on the Redington Navy Base property and is fed by numerous headwater streams originating on Saddleback Junior and Saddleback Mountain. It is well known for brook and brown trout fishing.

Orbeton Stream joins the Sandy River near Madrid and eventually feeds into the Kennebec. The Kennebec headwaters that originate on and traverse the Orbeton Stream property are federally designated as critical habitat for the endangered Atlantic salmon, and has been the site of Atlantic salmon restoration efforts by Trout Unlimited and the Maine Department of Marine Fisheries.

This project will prevent development on Orbeton Stream, protecting it from siltation, temperature elevation, runoff and pollution that would reduce its value as a cold water fishery and put this critical habitat at risk.

m. scenic resources (such as mountain viewsheds, undeveloped shorelines, visual access to water, areas along state highway system)

The Orbeton parcel is in the viewshed of a six-mile section of the Appalachian Trail that travels a high elevation ridgeline across Saddleback Mountain, the Horn, and Saddleback Junior. This section of the A.T. has eleven designated scenic viewing

²³ The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, *Maine Subwatersheds Best for Protection* map, http://128.118.47.58/EBTJV/pdf/ebr/ME_FIPS_230_2_Subwatersheds.pdf

²⁴ Sarah Demers, Environmental Review Coordinator, Maine Natural Areas Program, by letter, May 18, 2010

locations (above treeline areas, prominent ledges, or other areas that offer dramatic and expansive views), all looking out over the Orbeton Stream parcel. Protection of this viewshed through the conservation of the Orbeton Stream parcel will maintain this section of the A.T. as one of the “jewels” of the entire 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail.

The National Park Service has continually emphasized protection of this viewshed in the High Peaks as one of their top priorities as they have been heavily involved in land use decisions at Saddleback Ski Area and Redington Wind Farm. Protection of this parcel with a conservation easement on a willing seller basis will accomplish critical A.T. viewshed protection without having parties resort to fighting in the regulatory process.

n. historic/cultural/tribal resources of significance as formally documented by a government agency or non-governmental organization

(1 pt for each public value significantly represented by the project; 0 additional pts if project is of primarily regional significance; 4 additional pts if project is of state significance; 8 additional pts if project is of national significance)

The Orbeton Stream parcel is adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. While the A.T. is primarily a natural and recreational resource, it is also an historic resource that is being promoted for listing on the National Register of Historic Places²⁵. Protection of the Crocker Mountain parcel will add significantly to protecting the character and nature of the A.T. as an historic and cultural resource and America’s first example of a long-distance trail.

The abandoned rail bed of the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad, a very important cultural resource, is located on the Orbeton parcel east of Orbeton Stream. Early settlers, loggers, and the pioneer forefathers of our current fishing and recreational tourists used the narrow gauge railroad to reach the area. Currently this is a high-quality gravel road that is open to the public through landowner policy (but without legal access). The southern section of the road is open to ATV use through landowner policy.

5. Describe access to the project for recreational purposes: (0 pts if foot access to the parcel is not being guaranteed and/or vehicle access to project will not be available; 5 pts if foot access to the parcel is being guaranteed and vehicle access to the project will be available; scoring will recognize that vehicle access to certain lands such as high elevation parcels may not be appropriate).

The Orbeton Stream parcel is currently open to motorized and pedestrian recreational use. A network of management roads allows vehicle access. While sections of the property may be closed for forest management purposed, the entire property would remain open to the same public uses that are available today, hiking, hunting, fishing, paddling and snowmobiling.

²⁵ National Parks Conservation Association: State of the Parks Report – Appalachian National Scenic Trail.
<http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/appalachian/>

4. *Describe the future forest management objectives, what entity will be responsible for future forest management and how the property will be sustainably managed to protect the values identified in #2. Scoring is based upon the degree to which future forest management will be consistent with the Land for Maine's Future Program's most current policy for working forest easements: (0 pts if not consistent; 5 pts if highly consistent).*

Linkletter Timberland will remain the fee owner of this property and continue to manage it for long-term forest products production. Conserving this property will help insure that the company is able to continue to hold and manage it sustainably over the long-term. Linkletter Timberland is Master Logger certified and the Orbeton Stream parcel is in the process of being third-party certified under the Forest Stewardship Council.

THREATENED CRITERION (20 points maximum)

6. *Describe the extent to which the values identified in #2 are under threat of loss or conversion to non-forest uses (or were under threat prior to pre-acquisition). Describe the type, severity and imminence of the threat. Include a description of any legal protections that currently exist on the property; landowner circumstances; adjacent land use; and physical attributes of the parcel that could facilitate conversion: (5 pts if threat of loss or conversion is low; 10 pts if threat of loss or conversion is moderate; 20 pts if threat of loss or conversion is high).*

The Orbeton parcel is the last large working forest parcel in de-organized Madrid Township. Much of the critically important habitat and recreation on this property is along and on the waters of Orbeton Stream. The landowner has made it clear that their intent is to realize some of the development value of this property in order to reinvest in the company. Absent a conservation easement, the landowner has indicated they will likely subdivide parts of the Orbeton Stream corridor for development. These lots would be highly marketable given the richness of the fisheries resource, abundant recreational opportunities in the area, panoramic views, and relative proximity to service center communities.

In a 2008 letter Patrick Keliher of the Maine Department of Marine Resources highlights the impact development could have on Orbeton's critical riparian habitat:

“One of the most immediate threats to the ecological integrity of headwater streams in Maine like Perham and Orbeton Streams is land use change. Land protection is one way to ensure that the productivity and habitat complexity of stream habitat for Atlantic salmon and native freshwater fishes is maintained.”²⁶

An example of the immediate development threat is the new East Madrid Road subdivision overlooking the Orbeton Parcel from the southeast. Each lot buyer has been attracted primarily by the views over the Orbeton Parcel to the Saddleback ridgeline in the background, and has opened the forest canopy to improve their view. The result is that a mile-long section of the southerly margin of the Orbeton Stream valley now appears as a long row of developed house lots visible from many places within the Orbeton parcel, as well as from the Appalachian

²⁶ Patrick Keliher, Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries, Maine Department of Marine Resources, by letter, 2008

National Scenic Trail. It is easy to conclude that this is what the Orbeton Parcel itself will eventually look like if it is not conserved, since the Orbeton Parcel has many developable hillsides that are already easily accessible by means of its well-constructed timber haul roads.

Another kind of forest conversion threat recently appearing in the East Madrid Road area adjacent to the Orbeton parcel are purchases of timberland that is then withdrawn from active forest management and also posted “no trespassing” for all traditional open space recreational users. The owners of these lots use them as “private estate” residences and exclusive hunting preserves. One of these owners is currently building an open-canopy seasonal residence on the side of Farmer Mountain ridge with a panoramic view across the Orbeton Parcel and other nearby working forestland to the full Saddleback to Mt. Abram viewscape, located 3 miles from the nearest public road, deep within the surrounding working forest. While these new kinds of forestland owners do provide a form of privatized land conservation, they also represent a significant new conversion threat to this area’s working forestlands. Similar to the nearby open canopy small house lot threat, it is easy to see this privatization kind of conversion occurring as part of the fragmentation of the Orbeton Parcel if it is not conserved.

STRATEGIC CRITERION (30 points maximum)

3. ***Describe the property’s relevance or relationship to conservation efforts on a broader level. Describe the scale of the broader conservation plan, the scale of the project’s contribution to that plan, and the placement of the project within the plan area. Describe whether the project is adjacent to or otherwise located so as to significantly enhance the values of existing conservation land. (0 pts if property is not part of a broader conservation plan; 15 pts if the property makes a modest contribution to a conservation effort and is near already protected lands; 30 pts if the property significantly advances a landscape scale or watershed-based conservation strategy through infill and/or key linkages and supports previous conservation investments.)***

The Orbeton Stream parcel is a strategic acquisition according to numerous conservation planning efforts. These include:

- Keeping Maine’s Forests – Western Mountains and Lakes Pilot Area. This northern forest focused initiative is transitioning from planning to implementation. The initiative is seeking specific landscape-scale projects with the potential to attract public and private dollars to conserve the multiple values of Maine’s working forests and assist forest landowners with expanded programmatic dollars for stewardship²⁷. The initiative seeks to build on rather than supplant the Forest Legacy Program, and the Orbeton Stream parcel is perfectly positioned in the Western Mountains and Lakes Demonstration Area, one of the initiative’s four identified demonstration areas. It fits well as an illustration of the program’s vision statement to balance long-term timber management, enhance recreational opportunities, and conserve important habitat. The landowners have been tracking the progress of the Keeping Maine’s Forest Initiative with an interest in attracting stewardship dollars to purchase specialized equipment and offset costs associated with public access.

²⁷ Keeping Maine’s Forests, A Landscape Forest Conservation Initiative, May 2010, Working Draft Form.

- State Wildlife Action Plan – Mount Abraham/Crocker Mountain/Saddleback Focus Area: The Orbeton Stream parcel is predominantly subalpine habitat. Within this focus area as a whole, the alpine and subalpine habitats together support fifteen species of rare plants and three species of rare animals. Twenty-four occurrences of rare or exemplary natural communities have been identified in the focus area.²⁸ The clean, free flowing Orbeton Stream is a first order headwater stream to the Kennebec River system, a system that is federally designated as critical habitat for the endangered Atlantic salmon, and has been the site of Atlantic salmon restoration efforts by Trout Unlimited and the Maine Department of Marine Fisheries.²⁹ The cold waters of Orbeton Stream also support rare wild brook trout and other cold-water fish species, as well as rare spring salamanders. Continued field monitoring by MNAP's partners has identified this property as a strategic acquisition based on the rare ecological communities present.
- The Maine A.T. Land Trust's Ecological Study of the High Peaks identifies this parcel as being a strategic conservation acquisition. The Maine A.T. Land Trust's Ecological Study of the High Peaks identifies this parcel as being a strategic conservation acquisition. The High Peaks region is unique in that it is the southern-most extension in the United States of the boreal forest transition zone extending out of Canada³⁰. The bio-physical characteristics of this zone attract a mix of plant and animal species that occupy habitats more strictly to the north or more strictly to the south. The threat of development or intensive forestry operations risk fragmenting this important habitat type.
- This parcel is located in a Tier 1 (highest rank) Matrix Forest block as designated by The Nature Conservancy. These Matrix Forest blocks are part of an extended area of contiguous large tracts of undeveloped land of sufficient size to support populations of wildlife that are difficult to maintain elsewhere.

The Orbeton Stream parcel would connect several existing conservation properties including property owned by the National Parks Service (Appalachian National Scenic Trail), The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, and the Redington Navy Base.

Viewed in the larger context of the western Maine mountains region and its core High Peaks area, the Orbeton Parcel is one of only a few remaining strategically located large parcels capable of linking the region's major public and private resort recreation areas. South of the Orbeton Parcel are the Mt. Blue/Tumbledown public lands, north and east are the Bigelow/Mt. Abram public lands and Sugarloaf/Carrabassett Valley resort complex, and north and west are the Four Ponds and Rangeley area public lands and Rangeley Lakes/Saddleback resort complex. Strategically, the Orbeton Parcel is a keystone conservation acquisition essential to

²⁸ Maine Natural Areas Program, Mount Abraham/Crocker Mountain/Saddleback Focus Area Draft Description, May 2010

²⁹ Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Beginning with Habitat, *Maine Conservation Priorities* map, September 2008

³⁰ McKinley, Peter. An Ecological Study of the High Peaks Region of Maine's Western Mountains. A project of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. 2007.

connecting all three of these established public lands-based recreation areas. Without conservation of the Orbeton Parcel, it will be very difficult to connect the three areas, since no other large parcels lie at the crossing of the backcountry routes between them. Of course, additional conservation acquisitions will be necessary to complete this vision of a western mountain backcountry recreation conservation region; however, without the Orbeton Parcel it is difficult to envision how it could otherwise be accomplished.

READINESS FACTORS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (30 points maximum)

8. ***Describe the degree of match being provided as a percentage of the Total Project Cost (the Total Project Cost is the sum of acquisition and preacquisition costs, but does not include stewardship endowment; do not include funds raised for stewardship endowment as match): (0 pts if percent match is <50%; 5 pts if percent match is 50% or greater).***

We are requesting 75% of the purchase price from the federal Forest Legacy Program. The required match for this parcel (25%) will be raised by TPL, RLHT, and MATLT through applications to the Land for Maine's Future program and a private fundraising campaign. TPL will also cover all pre-acquisition costs related to survey, appraisal, title, and environmental due diligence.

9. ***Describe the degree of project readiness including the status of each of the following:***

h. preliminary appraisal

Not complete.

i. agreement on easement or fee acquisition conditions between landowner and state

TPL, RLHT, and MATLT are beginning initial discussions with the landowner. No contractual agreement in place.

j. cost-share commitment has been obtained from a specified source

None. The project has just begun, but we are confident that we can raise private funds and LMF funds to meet the required Forest Legacy match.

k. signed option or purchase and sales agreement is held by the state or at the request of the state OR at the request of the state, conservation easement or fee title is held by a third party

None.

l. title search is completed

None. A formal title commitment will be pursued if the project is ranked for funding.

m. minerals determination is completed

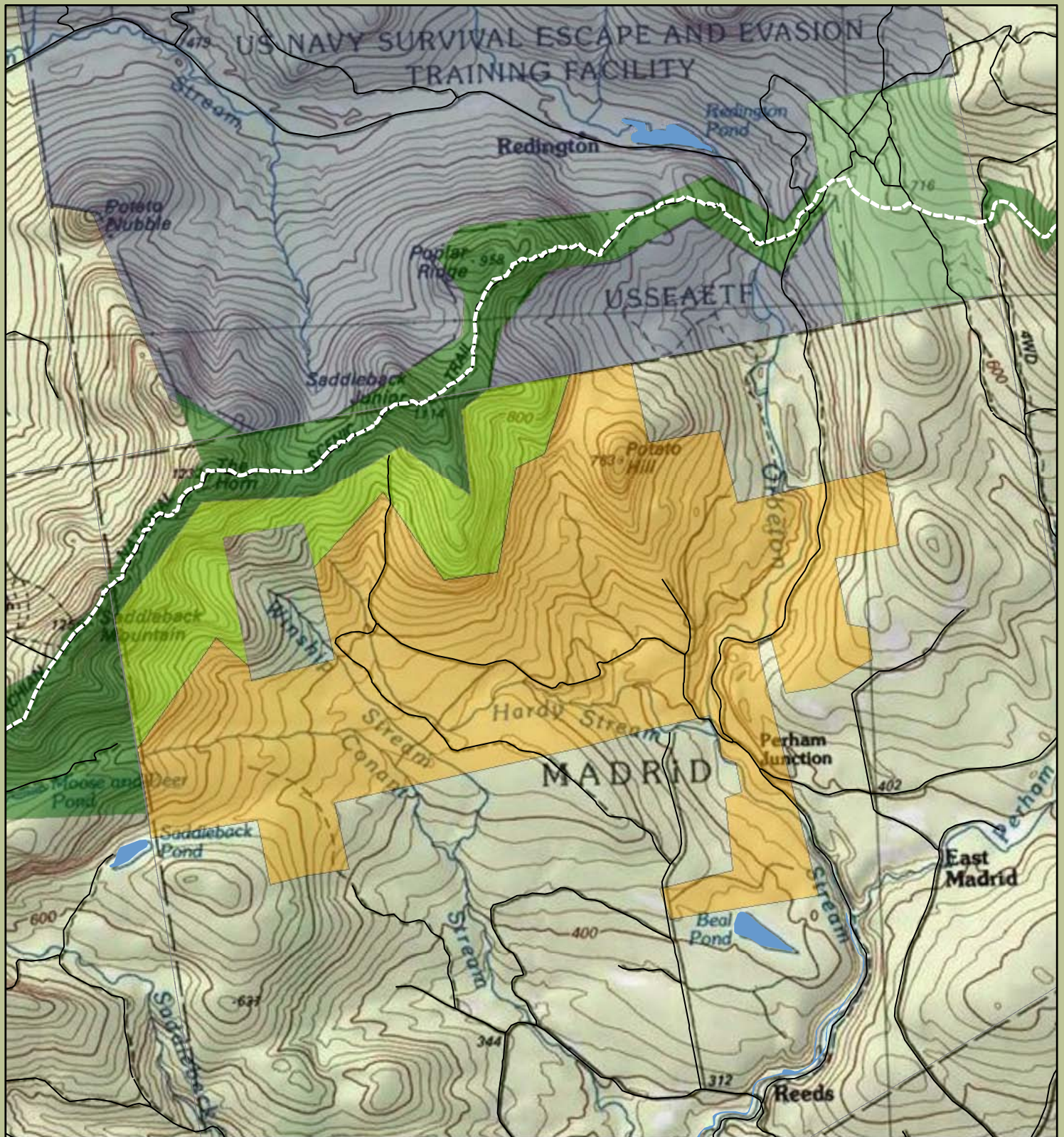
Minerals determination will be completed if the project is ranked for funding.







n. stewardship plan or multi-resource management plan is completed

None.

- 10. Describe the nature of ongoing management and stewardship of the fee or easement parcel. If fee, describe the potential for the parcel to generate revenue through timber harvesting, recreational fees, or other revenue streams directly connected to the parcel. Describe the annual management and stewardship costs of the parcel and the size of endowment needed to cover these costs using, in the case of easements, the model recommended in BPL's Monitoring Costs and Stewardship Endowment Levels for Maine Working Forest Easements <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/forestlegacy.shtml> or more recent BPL guidance, or, in the case of fee lands, most recent BPL guidance on the issue. Describe landowner or conservation partner's commitment to raise the necessary endowment. (0 pts if easement without commitment to raise full stewardship endowment; 20 pts if easement with commitment to raise full stewardship endowment; 10 pts if fee parcel with no or partial endowment commitment; 20 pts if fee parcel with commitment to raise full stewardship endowment or applicant demonstrates that land management will yield sufficient revenue, beginning at closing, to fully support land stewardship)**

Linkletter Timberland, LLC currently manages the Orbeton Stream parcel as a working forest with an open public use policy. The Trust for Public Land, Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, and Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust are committed to raising the appropriate level of endowment funding as determined by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. If the project is ranked, the partners will immediately begin raising money to fund the endowment.



-  Proposed Orbeton Stream Project - 5,945 acres
-  Appalachian Trail
-  Federal Conservation Land
-  Redington Navy Base
-  State Land
-  Private Conservation Land

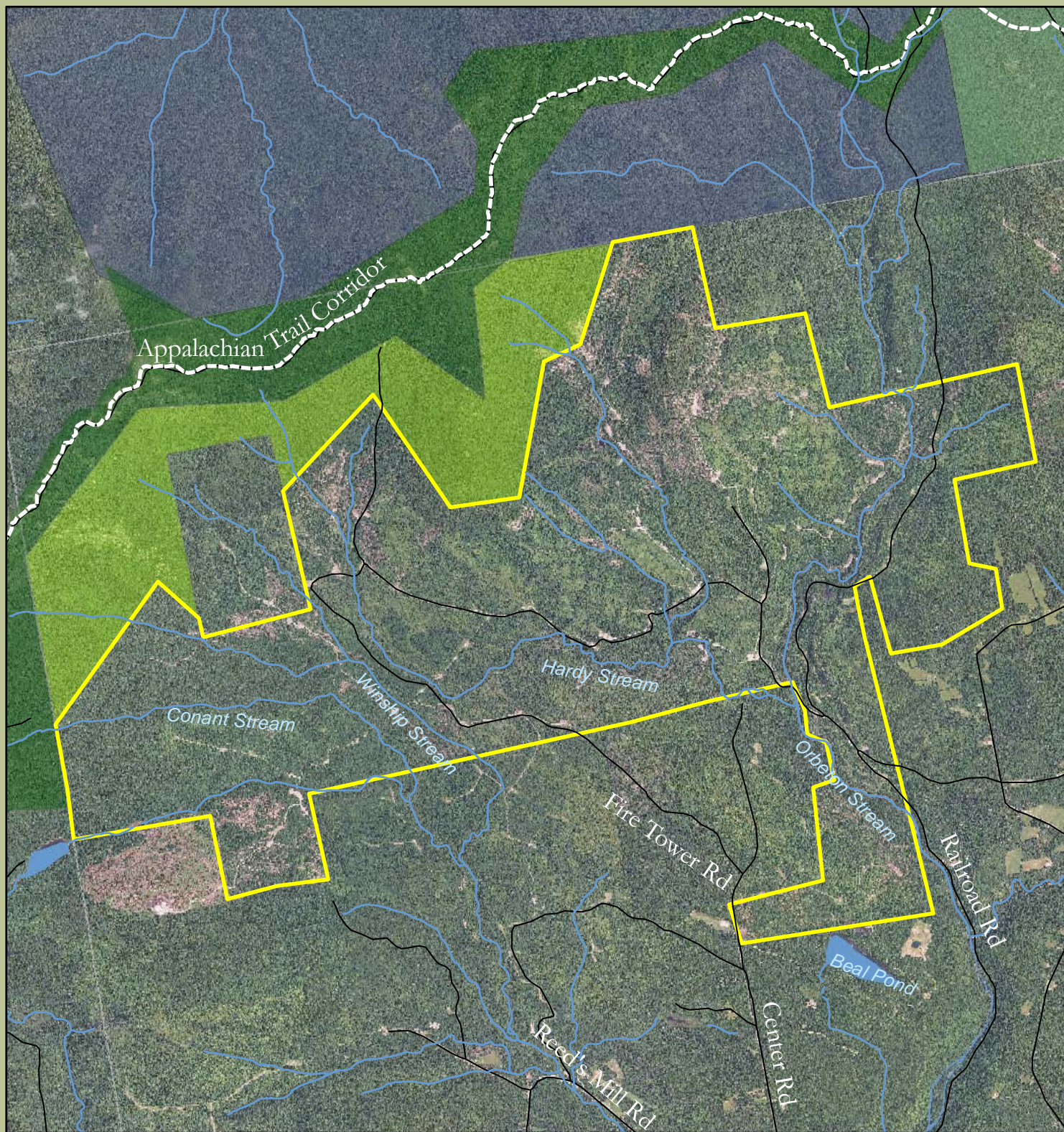








Orbeton Stream Conservation Project Madrid Township, ME

Property boundaries courtesy of Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. Boundaries are approximate. Created by The Trust of Public Land on May 16, 2010. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

0 0.5 1 2 Miles





-  Proposed Orbeton Stream Project
5,945 acres
-  Redington Navy Base
-  Federal Conservation Land
-  State Land
-  Private Conservation Land
-  Appalachian Trail

Aerial of Orbeton Stream Conservation Project Madrid Township, ME



0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile

Property boundaries courtesy of Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. Boundaries are approximate. Aerial is NAIP 2009. Created by The Trust for Public Land on 5/20/10. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.





High Peaks Conservation Project

Franklin County, Maine



Top: Looking toward Carrabassett Valley from the A.T. on South Crocker Mountain. The Crocker Mountain Parcel is in the middleground and the Bigelow Preserve is on the background on left. Sugarloaf Mountain is on the right.

Left: Hiker on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail on South Crocker Mountain. Background view is of the Subalpine Hanging Bog on the A.T. corridor and the Crocker Mountain Parcel beyond.

Photos by Jerry and Marcy Monkman/Ecophotography.com

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



Top: Hiker on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail on South Crocker Mountain. Background view is of Sugarloaf on the right and Little Bigelow on the left.

Right: Hikers in a birch glade on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail descending Crocker Mountain toward the Caribou Valley Road.

Photos by Jerry and Marcy Monkman/Ecophotography.com





Left: South Branch of the Carrabassett River at the Crocker Mountain Parcel. Photo by Jerry and Marcy Monkman/
Ecophotography.com

Bottom: View of Redington Navy Base in foreground and Black Nubble Mountain on the Redington Tract in the middleground as viewed from the A.T. at Saddleback Junior. The High Peaks region contains a vast forested area of great recreational and ecological significance. Photo by Maine A.T. Land Trust.





Looking from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail at Saddleback Junior toward the Redington Navy Base and the Lone Mountain Connector parcel with Sugarloaf and Spaulding in the background.
Photo by Maine A.T. Land Trust.



Top: View of 6,640 acre Ephraim Ridge property from Rangeley Lake Overlook. This property is proposed for an easement acquisition that would protect the ridgeline and assure sustainable forest management.
Photo by Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust.

